

## Israel denies any contact with Libya

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel strongly denied reports that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is promoting an Israeli-Libyan detente reminiscent of his role in the Iran-gate scandal, newspapers said Friday. U.S. officials suspected that Israel saw a strategic interest in improved relations with Libya. Washington Post columnist Jim Hoagland wrote this week. But several Israeli newspapers cited foreign ministry officials as saying Mr. Peres was not maintaining any contact with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, not directly, and not through a third party. Mr. Hoagland compared a thaw with Libya to Israel's part in exchanging arms for hostages in Iran under President Ronald Reagan in 1985. By reaching out to Iranian "moderates," Israel could offset more hostile elements. He cited an occupied Jerusalem visit by Libyan pilgrims to Muslim holy shrines in June that ended prematurely. The trip was organized by Israeli arms dealer Yassov Nimrodi, the man behind the initial U.S. arms shipment to Iran. Mr. Hoagland suggested that Mr. Peres was maintaining contacts with Libyan officials through intermediaries. Mr. Peres never denied his involvement in the pilgrims' visit. "The Libya after the visit is different than the Libya before," he said at the time. The daily Haaretz quoted Israeli officials as saying that Mr. Dennis Ross, the American peace talks coordinator, cautioned Mr. Peres last week against contacts with Libya.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

## MONTREAL TORONTO

DIRECT FLIGHT, NOON DEPARTURES, SUNSET  
ARRIVALS, EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

ROYAL JORDANIAN الملكية الأردنية

YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD.

Volume 17 Number 5364

AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1993, SAFR 4, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

### Israeli soldiers wound 10 in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 10 Palestinians, including five children, in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday. Palestinian sources said. The worst incidents occurred in the Shifa refugee camp, where nine Palestinians were shot, they said. On Thursday, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinians, including four children, in the same camp (Alarabian, increase, page 2).

### Kaddoumi favours PLO power-sharing

PARIS (AFP) — Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) top foreign policy official, said Friday he favoured more power-sharing in the organisation. "We should improve the circulation of information and take into account different opinions within the PLO," he said. "We should ensure that decisions are more collegial," he told AFP in an interview. He emphasised that even with the present structure, decisions were taken collectively. Mr. Kaddoumi, who was ending a two-day visit here, had been asked to comment on a recent call for a "collegial leadership" for the PLO by Haider Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

### Indonesia denies ties with Israel

SINGAPORE (AP) — Indonesia Friday denied reports it was establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. "That is not at all true," said Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. "We have no intention of establishing relations with them." Mr. Alatas was commenting on news reports from Israel saying the Indonesian ambassador in Singapore had been asked to Israel to hold negotiations on relations. Mr. Alatas said recently he had gone to a conference in Vienna and sat at the same table with an Israeli minister. He said the chance event had been portrayed wrongly as a meeting between Indonesian and Israeli government representatives. "When I only exchanged one sentence with him," Mr. Alatas said.

### Worst locust threat in sub-Saharan Africa

CAIRO (AP) — Rains that promised drought relief to much of sub-Saharan Africa are generating swarms of locusts that threaten calamity for much of the area, the United Nations said Friday. Edouard Saouma, Lebanese director-general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said the locust menace is the worst since 1987. In addition to Northern Africa, swarms of the marauding insects have been sighted across the Arabian Peninsula and as far east as Pakistan. The FAO said. And with the onset of the Indian monsoon, it said that country's western Rajasthan area probably will be infested by the end of July.

### Plane crash kills 53 in China

PEKING (AP) — A passenger plane crashed shortly after takeoff Friday in northern China, killing at least 53 people, the official Xinhua news agency reported. A French tourist was among the dead. Xinhua said, without giving a name. A total of 108 passengers and five crew members were on the Beijing-bound plane when it crashed at the Yinchuan airport, the Xinhua said. Yinchuan, capital of the Ningxia Hui autonomous region, is about 900 kilometres west of Beijing. The report did not say what kind of plane it was or name the airline. No explanation was given for the crash.

### Yeltsin: Parliament threatens democracy

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in a fierce attack on parliament, accused the conservative legislature Friday of threatening democracy by trying to take more power. A statement his press services denounced Mr. Yeltsin's attempts to have the minister and the mayor of Moscow sacked and said Mr. Yeltsin would disregard its resolutions (see page 10).

## Fateh endorses confederation, insists on Jerusalem on agenda

Palestinians ready to skip preliminary stages in peace talks

### Combined agency despatches

TUNIS — Fateh, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) largest faction, Friday endorsed a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians as a way of ending the deadlock in Middle East peace talks.

But a statement issued by the group's Revolutionary Council emphasised that such a confederation should be between "the state of Jordan and the state of Palestine."

It was unclear if such a condition would be acceptable to Israel, which has repeatedly rejected the Palestinians' call for an independent homeland.

The council meeting drew about 100 Fateh leaders for four days of talks. The concluding statement was carried by the Palestinian news agency Wafa. "The idea of a confederation between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has been floated since mid-1980 by some Israeli and Palestinian leaders as a way of breaking the impasse in the U.S.-backed peace talks."

Both sides believe that some linkage would allow the negotiators to bypass discussion of an "interim" solution and go right to a final settlement on the territories' future.

It also could circumvent difficulties over the city of Jerusalem.

Palestinians want Arab East Jerusalem as the capital of their would-be state; Israel refuses to discuss the redrawing of the city.

According to the statement carried by Wafa, the Fateh Council urged enhancing "the future relations between the Palestinian people and the Jordanian people on the basis of confederation."

Senior Fateh officials said the council also urged the PLO leadership to activate six working groups set up with Jordan earlier this month to work out details of the proposed confederation.

The statement said the council believed no Middle East peace settlement could be reached without a resolution of the status of Jerusalem.

Fateh also demanded that East Jerusalem be put on the agenda of the peace talks.

The United States has been trying to persuade the Palestinians to put aside the issue of Jerusalem until discussions begin on a permanent solution after an interim autonomy agreement goes into effect.

The Fateh decision said that Jerusalem as "capital of the state of Palestine" must be put on the peace talks agenda.

It also insisted that Israel accept U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

"The total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab and Palestinian

occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinians' national rights is the only foundation for peace and stability in the Middle East," the statement said.

It also urged Palestinians in the occupied territories to continue their uprising against Israeli occupation.

"The council decides to provide all support and means to step up our people's uprising and the valiant resistance until victory is achieved and occupation is defeated," the statement said.

In Amman PLO officials said Palestinians, eager for agreement with Israel on interim self-rule in the occupied territories, are ready to skip preliminary stages.

The current peace process speaks of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on a five-year period of self-rule with talks on the final status of the territories starting in the third year.

"In view of the difficulty in arriving at a concept and the landmarks of the final stage, let's cut short all the roads and negotiate a phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho," Saleh Ra'fat, Palestine Central Committee member, told Reuters.

"The PLO is ready to accept a disengagement treaty, starting in its first stage with Gaza and parts of the West Bank leading to a phased implementation of U.N. Resolution 242 that calls for full Israeli withdrawal from the terri-

ties occupied in 1967," he added.

Palestinians were expected to offer the new proposals to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he tours the region from Aug. 1-5 to try and break the deadlocked Middle East peace talks.

"To save the peace process after it has reached a dead end is why we are raising now the issue of bypassing the interim stages to the final stage," PLO Executive Committee member Suleiman Najab said.

Israel and the Palestinians are still wrangling over the extent of self-rule. Palestinians want Arab Jerusalem to be placed under their jurisdiction during the interim stage to ensure it becomes the capital of their future independent state.

Israel says Jerusalem is its "eternal capital."

Syria urged U.S. President Bill Clinton Friday to emulate former President Dwight Eisenhower and persuade Israel to trade land for peace.

Referring to the 1956 Suez war by Israel, Britain and France against Egypt, Al Baath newspaper, organ of the ruling Baath Party, recalled that Mr. Eisenhower had urged Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion to

(Continued on page 10)

## U.N. starts long-term watch of Iraqi arms programmes

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. inspectors flew in Friday for a routine check of Iraq's nuclear sites after Baghdad finally bowed to U.N. pressure for long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes, avoiding a showdown with the Western allies.

The 15-member team was headed by Maurizio Zifferero, deputy director of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The team will inspect nuclear facilities and also prepare for an airlift of about 40 kilograms of irradiated nuclear fuel to Russia as part of the U.N. effort to prevent a revival of Baghdad's nuclear weapons programme.

Mr. Zifferero, an Italian, said the airlift will start in September and last until March.

Officials of the U.N. Special Commission which is overseeing the elimination of Iraq's non-conventional weapons have said a special plane was being adapted to ensure that even in the event of a crash, there would be no leakage of radiation.

The airlift would be the first of its kind as such cargo was transported by ships in the past.

"Lots of preparation is needed," Mr. Zifferero said. "We will start actually filling in the transfer casks and shipping casks from the middle of September... it is a very complicated process."

Iraq on Thursday officially confirmed for the first time that it had accepted long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes. But the United Nations remained wary of the intentions of a country that has repeatedly resisted terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire.

Another team of U.N. inspectors was leaving New York for Baghdad Friday with surveillance cameras to be installed at two controversial missile testing sites, Yawm Al Azim and Al Rafah, south of Baghdad.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Commission, told the U.N. Security Council Thursday that his five days of talks with senior Iraqi officials produced a declaration from Iraq that it accepts the council's resolution on long-term monitoring and an agreement to hold technical talks with the United Nations on the outstanding weapons issues.

The high-level technical talks will begin in New York in late August, he said, and "the long-term solution (on monitoring and verification) will be one of the topics to be covered, including the question of the activation of these cameras."

Security Council President David Hannay of Britain welcomed the agreement, which he said is "endorsed by the council."

The council considered the terms "satisfactory interim arrangements," he said, noting that Iraq's promise to warn the U.N. commission in advance about any use of the sites to enable the United Nations to monitor activity there had been a major factor in the council's acceptance of the arrangement.

The council welcomes the Iraqi government's acceptance of Resolution 715 dealing with "long-term monitoring and verification... and welcomes the decision to hold those talks and hopes that they will be fruitful," Mr. Hannay said.

However, the council continues to refuse to link the talks

(Continued on page 10)

## Major wins confidence vote linked to Maastricht Treaty

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister John Major won a vote of confidence and parliamentary backing for a treaty of European union Friday, facing down rebels in his party with the threat of an immediate national election.

Mr. Major won the confidence motion 339-299 in the house of commons. The government earlier prevailed 339-301 against a last-gasp attempt by the Labour Party to force it to sign up to a charter of worker's rights as part of the Maastricht Treaty.

The votes cleared the way for Britain's formal ratification of the treaty, once the courts dispose of a private suit filed earlier this week.

"The one thing I wasn't going to do... was to hand over the running of this country to a Labour government," said William Cash, a leading Tory treaty opponent who finally supported Mr. Major on Friday.

Winding up a daylong debate, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd declared: "This the last speech in the last debate on the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. I was fairly sure of applause on that proposition at least."

Mr. Major said it was time for parliament to ratify the treaty of which its 11 partners in the European Community (EC) have already endorsed. Arguments about Britain's place in Europe have divided both the main parties, and contributed to the downfall of Margaret Thatcher in 1990.

"I am not prepared to let it poison the political atmosphere any longer," Mr. Major told a Rowdy House, referring to Conservative Party divisions over the treaty he negotiated at Maastricht in the Netherlands in 1991.

"The bill must be lanced and it must be lanced today," he added. Conservative rebels faced the choice of getting into line or forcing a national election that the party — running last in opinion polls — would be hard-pressed to win.

They returned to the fold Friday when it became clear Major would carry out his threat to call a snap general election.

Opinion polls show the Conservatives, hit by a series of crises and U-turns in the last year, are lying only third behind Labour and the minority Liberal Democrats.

All parties appeared relieved that the gruelling parliamentary ratification process was over, although it still has to survive a challenge in the high court that could delay the process for several months.

Asked to comment on the vote as he left the chamber, the heavy-looking premier smiled and said, "The figures speak for themselves."

Only Britain and Germany among the 12 EC members have not yet ratified the treaty, which requires unanimity.

The government faces a severe test in a by-election in the south coast town of Christchurch next Thursday, when it is expected to be defeated in one of its safest seats by the Liberal Democrats, cutting its parliamentary majority to 17.

Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrats' chairman, said it had been confirmed in the last two days of dramatic parliamentary action that the ruling party was split and Mr. Major's authority was seriously damaged.

"Next week comes Christchurch — let's see what they bring," he said.

## 3,000 said to have fled south Iraq marshes

GENEVA (AP) — More than 3,000 people have fled apparent government offensives in Iraq's southern marshes and are escaping into Iran at the rate of 150 per day, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Friday.

Spokeswoman Marie Okabe said a further 15,000 Shiite Muslims were reportedly waiting to cross the border into a remote part of western Iran. Supplies of food and water were said to be short in temperatures topping 50 degrees centigrade, she said.

Ms. Okabe said refugees interviewed by UNHCR officials said they had fled shelling and artillery attacks by government forces.

She said details were sketchy and it was unclear whether the refugees were Shiite rebels or women and children fleeing in fear of the alleged offensives.

Meanwhile a senior official with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said continuing economic sanctions against the Baghdad regime had caused tens of thousands of excess deaths among young children and was plunging the general population into ever-worse poverty.

Thomas Ekvall, UNICEF's representative in Iraq, told a news conference that the agency's own programme to provide aid to innocent civilians was threatened by an acute shortage of funds.

He said UNICEF had received only about seven per cent of an appeal launched in April for \$86 million.

"There is a serious humanitarian situation and the funding for the programme to address that situation is not there," he said. Mr. Ekvall said the infant mortality rate had tripled as a result of sanctions since the war to a rate of 92 per 1,000.

In a recent report the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organisation warned that the country was on the fringe of famine.

Iran's news agency reported government shelling in the marshes and a mass exodus over the border. The UNHCR report was the first independent confirmation of the refugee flow, but spokeswoman Okabe stressed the agency had no reliable information about the attacks.

### Iranian attacks

Iranian warplanes bombed Kurdish rebel bases in northeastern Iraq Thursday while a large force of Revolutionary Guards attacked across the border.



A Lebanese villager searches Friday through what remains of his belongings in the rubble of his house destroyed the day before by an Israeli air raid against Jarjah, South Lebanon (AFP photo)

## Israel accuses Syrians of waging proxy war in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel accused Syria Friday of fighting a proxy war against Israel in Lebanon hoping to extract gains at deadlocked Middle East peace talks.

Guerrillas have killed six Israeli soldiers in July, the bloodiest month in nearly three years for Israel forces in Lebanon.

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur, asked if Syria used the guerrillas as proxies, said: "They certainly exploit the Lebanon front to attack us and also to push us on issues that are important to them in the peace process."

Israel and Syria have made little progress in nearly 21 months of peace talks. Syria demands total withdrawal from the Golan Heights seized by Israel in the 1967 war.

Israel would not discuss the extent of withdrawal unless assured of full peace including open borders, free trade and embassies.

On Thursday, pro-Iranian guerrillas stormed Israel's self-proclaimed South Lebanon "security zone" killing an Israeli soldier and defying two weeks of Israeli threats to retaliate for the killing of five Israeli soldiers on July 8 and 9.

Israel, despite hitting back hard with artillery and helicopters on Thursday, appeared intent on avoiding a massive ground assault.

The guerrillas, opposed to the U.S.-brokered peace talks, hope to scuttle them by provoking an all-out war with Israel.

Several rockets fell early Fri-

day on the far north of Israel but did no damage, military sources said.

Israeli troops returned the fire, they said without elaborating.

On Thursday, Israel moved large numbers of troop reinforcements into its "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Ex-Defence Minister Ariel Sharon called on Israel to deliver an ultimatum to Syria warning that unless it halts the attacks in southern Lebanon the peace talks are off.

"We must send a real ultimatum to Syria: No peace negotiations unless terrorist operations are halted in Lebanon," the hard-line right-winger told Voice of Israel radio.

He also urged the army to launch a series of raids north of the "security zone" to quell the attacks.

"These operations do not need to be on a large scale. The main thing is to put the terrorists on the defensive," he said, accusing Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of "indecision."

Israel's chief negotiator with Lebanon at the peace talks, Uri Lubrani, echoed Mr. Gur in an interview published Friday.

"The president of Syria, (Hafez Al Assad), sits where he sits rubbing his hands and others do the work of attacking Israel for him," Mr. Lubrani told the daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth.

"As long as the Golan Heights are untouched, Assad doesn't care who hurts us in the security zone. He believes that following pressure in the field we will be more prepared for all sorts of

compromises," Mr. Lubrani said.

Israel warned Syria two weeks ago — via U.S. officials — to restrain guerrillas by blocking weapons transfers from Iran.

Mr. Gur dismissed recent Syrian warnings that Israeli action against Lebanon would be seen as a move against Syria.

"That Syrian threat... does not influence our decisions. What is influential is to be sure that when we take the decision it is indeed the... right date; the 'right approach,'" he told army radio.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due in the Middle East on July 31 in a bid by Washington to edge forward Israel's talks with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians.

### Hizbollah claims achievement

A leader of the Shiite Muslim Hizbollah said Friday that the militia has seized the military initiative from Israel in South Lebanon.

Sheikh Naim Qassem, second in command in of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) also repeated the group's call for Lebanon to withdraw from the Middle East peace process.

"Yesterday's onslaught and the lessons it entailed have proved that we have wrested the initiative from the enemy," Sheikh Qassem said.

He added: "We shall continue our resistance, irrespective of the peace negotiations, until the enemy is totally dislodged from its so-called security zone."

(Continued on page 10)

## 2 more arrested in alleged New York bombing plots

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, New Jersey (Agencies) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has arrested an Egyptian man wanted in connection with an alleged plot to blow up the United Nations building and busy New York City commuter tunnels, and a man accused of harbouring him.

Matarawi Mohammad Saleh, 44, also known as Wahid, was arrested Thursday night at a seaside motel in North Wildwood in southern New Jersey, FBI Agent James C. Esposito said Friday.

Another Egyptian national, 31-year-old Ashraf Mohammad, was also arrested there for allegedly harbouring Mr. Saleh. The two were held overnight in the Cape May County jail and were to be arraigned later Friday in Camden, New Jersey, said FBI spokesman Jim Laub.

The arrest brought the number of alleged bombing plot conspirators in custody to 11. Prosecutors say they have hours of surveillance tapes with plotters discussing bombing targets and explosives-making efforts.

A longtime informant helped authorities break up what they called a ring of fundamentalist Muslims with international connections.

Mr. Saleh has been a fugitive since he was charged along with eight others in the conspiracy, the FBI said in a statement. Eight people were arrested

June 24 after federal agents raided a New York City house where five men allegedly were mixing explosives. They were accused of plotting to bomb the United Nations, the Holland and Lincoln tunnels beneath the Hudson River and a federal building housing the FBI.

Mr. Saleh was indicted under the name Wahid although he remained at large. Another man was arrested June 30 in Philadelphia. And a new indictment July 14 added one of the men already under arrest in the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing to the list.

### Dispute over reward

A U.S. government plan to offer up to \$2 million for information on a missing suspect in the trade centre bombing has been stymied since mid-April by a row over what agency should foot the bill, the New York Times reported Friday.

The disagreement between the State Department and the FBI has meant the United States has still not offered a reward for information about Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, the newspaper said, the quoting officials.

Mr. Yousef is believed to have fled to Iraq soon after the Feb. 26 attack. The New York Times said the officials said privately they feared the United States may have squandered a crucial chance

to track down Mr. Yousef before he disappeared.

Authorities have described Mr. Yousef as a central figure in the bombing plot and he has been the subject of an international manhunt for nearly four months. But while the State Department and the FBI have agreed a big award should be offered for his capture, each agency has insisted it is unable to provide it, the daily said.

The stand-off has left U.S. investigators and Congress members increasingly frustrated since the State Department first turned down an FBI request to provide the award, the newspaper said. The FBI is responsible for combating terrorism at home while the State Department is charged with fighting it abroad.

"This should never have been an issue," a congressional official told the newspaper in an interview Thursday. "This is a case in which a little common sense would have gone a long way."

A State Department official who insisted on anonymity said on Thursday night the department was trying to find a way to issue the reward. "We've just got to get this one sorted out," the official told the newspaper.

Congress first gave the secretary of state the power to issue up to \$1 million rewards in 1984. But the terms of the legislation, which

(Continued on page 10)









Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Thursday meets with directors of public works departments in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

## Majali orders reemployment of 180 public works employees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 180 per diem workers dismissed by the Department of Public Works in Mafrqa last Monday are to be returned to their jobs, according to a decision by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the decision was taken following a sit-in staged by the workers in front of the ministry building in Amman and at the department in Mafrqa in protest against their dismissal.

The prime minister discussed the issue during his visit Thursday to the Ministry of Public Works and ordered that they be returned to their jobs, the paper said.

The ministry had decided to lay-off these workers because it alleged they had been neglecting their duty on the one hand and because of sufficient allocations for the department in Mafrqa on the other, the report said.

Describing the decision as arbitrary and unjust, groups representing the dismissed workers lodged a protest with the ministry and staged the sit-ins, which drew the attention of the prime minister through Mafrqa Deputy Mohammad Abu Alim and Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari, said the report.

Mr. Abu Alim said that the premier was concerned about the fate of the dismissed workers and instructed the ministry to re-employ them.

According to the report, Dr. Majali had said that the workers should receive their pay in full and that guarantees must be given for their continued employment.

Mr. Abu Alim met with the workers' representatives urging them to fully shoulder their duty and display at spirit of cooperation with the Mafrqa Public Works Department.

Also Thursday, the prime minister met with directors of public

works departments around the Kingdom and urged them to tackle the problems facing their departments through dialogue and cooperation.

Dr. Majali said participation in decision-making, defining problems and taking initiatives without fear would help obtain the best results.

He encouraged the directors to take initiatives and said their sincere and serious work in serving the public interest would make them a model for their employees, which would consequently increase and improve production.

The prime minister stressed the need to concentrate on priorities while preparing service projects.

He also called for encouraging research work and creativity of the civil servants in accordance with their responsibilities.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Al Hawari.

## Ministry to stamp imported, local meat

AMMAN (J.T.) — As of today (Saturday) meat imported by the Ministry of Supply and sold in the Kingdom will carry a red stamp; local meat will bear a blue stamp, according to a ministry announcement.

The announcement said the marks will be stamped by the Amman Municipality's slaughter house which slaughters imported sheep from Australia and other countries and animals by local livestock breeders.

Imported Australian fresh meat now sells for JD 2.6 to JD 2.75 per kilogramme and local meat sells for JD 4 to JD 6 per kilo.

Meanwhile, a delegation representing the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation concluded three days of talks with Jordanian government officials in Amman and left for home.

Australian embassy sources said that Australia is giving the municipality's slaughter house a meat chiller worth JD 200,000.

The chiller is to be installed before the end of 1993.

Last week the Ministry of Supply issued a ban on Bulgarian meat because of alleged reports that the Balkan state's cattle had been infected with the contagious hoof and mouth disease. But officials said that the ban would cause no hardship on consumers as the ministry had sufficient supplies of other imported meats.

## Tawjihi results drop 2.1 per cent

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tawjihi results announced Friday by Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari showed a 2.1 per cent decline in the number of successful students compared with last year's results.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said only 49.2 per cent of the 73,242 registered students passed the examination this year compared to 51.3 per cent last year.

Only 67,028 male and female students out of the registered total actually sat for the examination, and the total number of students who passed was 33,003, said Dr. Omari.

The students had sat for examinations in the literary, scientific, commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management courses.

According to the minister, out of the total registered Tawjihi students, 48,935 were regular students attending classes at private and public schools; the rest were studying at home.

The minister, who congratulated the successful students, announced that he would soon organise a ceremony to honour those who came first in their respective courses.

He also announced that the results of students of the Israeli-occupied West Bank schools would be published Monday, noting that those results are very close to the results of the students in Jordan.

The ministry has continued to supervise and organise examinations for the West Bank students despite Jordan's 1988 severance of administrative and legal ties with the occupied territory.

Meanwhile, the Council of Higher Education has endorsed a general plan for the distribution

of successful Tawjihi students wishing to pursue their higher education to state-run universities in the 1993-94 academic year.

Council sources said a total of 10,022 students will be accepted at the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Muta University and Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The sources said the number of undergraduate acceptances this year will equal those of last year.

They said that 1,968 post graduate students will be accepted in these universities for masters and doctoral programmes.

## Missing boy held in police 'red tape'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 14-year-old reported missing two weeks ago had showed up at Irbid police station on the same day saying he was lost, but police procedures took six days before he was returned to his family, relatives said Friday.

"The boy is safe and sound and back with his family," a relative, who identified himself only as Marwan, told the Jordan Times when reached by telephone Friday. "He was with Irbid police for three days and then spent another three days with Amman police before we got him back."

Samer Mohammad Musa, who "disappeared" on Friday, July 9, while on an errand in Zarqa market where his father Mohammad Musa runs a locksmith shop, had a family tiff earlier in the day and had left for his uncle's house in Irbid, the relative said.

"The boy got lost in Irbid and surrendered himself to Irbid police the same evening," Marwan said. The boy was not available to talk to the Jordan Times Friday.

Marwan said the boy had identified himself and provided all details of his background to Irbid police. It was not clear why the boy did not go to his uncle's



Samer Mohammad Musa

house in Irbid and why he chose to go to the police.

According to the relative, the boy spent three days in Irbid under police protection before he was transferred to Amman police, who contacted his family three days later to hand him over.

"In any case, we are happy we have the boy back, and that is all that matters to us," Marwan said.

There was no immediate explanation as to why it took so long for police to return the boy or contact the family, which had gone on a wild-goose chase after registering a complaint with Zarqa police and consulting a diviner who said the boy was in Al Wihdat camp outside Amman.

The affair came to light when the family put a missing notice in local Arabic-language newspapers on Monday, July 12.

Concern over the welfare of the boy, the eldest of six siblings, mounted further with revelations that he was last seen in the company of "two strange men" in Zarqa market and mysterious telephone calls to contact numbers given in the advertisement asking whether the boy was found.

The Public Relations Department of the Public Security Department (PSD) said it had no details of the affair.

Other sources said police routine and procedures also prevented any given police station to act upon its own initiative to return missing children originating in areas beyond its jurisdiction.

"The concerned police station has to go through the proper channels and contact its counterpart in the area of residence of the child," said a source.

The Zarqa case was the third reported affair involving a missing child in the past three months. In the two earlier cases, a nine-year-old boy was found killed in a cemetery in Russeifa, northeast of Amman, and a close cousin was reported to have confessed to the murder; in another case, an eight-year-old girl was also found murdered after being raped in Aqaba, and a suspect was reported to have confessed to the crime.

Another "missing" case was advertised in local papers last month, but a man who answered an Irbid phone number given in an advertisement said the boy reported missing had returned home.

The man refused to give any details except that family problems were behind the disappearance.

## Press department to sue new weekly; editor says paper may sue minister

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Department of Press and Publication is taking a recently established Arabic language weekly to court for alleged violation of the Press and Publication Law, the newspaper and Ministry of Information sources said Friday.

The department is suing Al Bilad weekly for publishing news reports that "harm national unity and security," that violating Article 40 of the Press and Publication Law which came into effect in May this year, the sources said.

The paper however "might" counter the government's case against it by suing Minister of Information, Ma'an Abu Nowar for allegedly "threatening and levelling insults at" the chairman of its board of directors Nayef Al Toureh during a meeting that took place at the ministry of information in the presence of the Director of the Press and Publication Department, Issa Al Jahmani, earlier this month, Al Bilad Senior Editor Mohammad Tomaleh told the Jordan Times

Friday.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Thursday and made available to the Jordan Times by Al Bilad Friday, Mr. Toureh claimed Dr. Abu Nowar "bluntly and illegally interfered" in the affairs of the newspaper, in the first edition of which appeared on July 7.

"I announce my astonishment at, and condemnation of the aggressive way in which (the minister) talked to me," during the meeting which took place at the official request of Dr. Abu Nowar and Mr. Jahmani, Mr. Toureh said in the letter.

The minister's "warnings" to Mr. Toureh "included direct threats," the letter claimed.

"These are absolute lies," Dr. Abu Nowar told the Jordan Times Friday. He said Mr. Toureh's claims are completely false and that he made no threats against him.

The minister said he merely advised Mr. Toureh to obey the law and that Mr. Toureh was eventually "very receptive" to the advice even though Mr. Toureh claimed he had walked

## Strategy seminar to focus on water issues in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on a national strategy for the protection of the environment in Jordan will be organised Monday at the Professional Association Complex, according to an announcement Friday.

Marwan Tell, of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) which is organising the meeting, said delegates representing the ministries of Water, Energy, Agriculture, Tourism, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment along with the Department of Housing will take part in the discussion.

Working papers to be reviewed at the seminar, which will be opened by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Al Farhan, will focus on water, energy, minerals, the atmosphere, agriculture and housing, said Mr. Tell.

Emphasis, he said, will be placed on water supplies, waste and contamination of water resources in Jordan.

Questions related to issuing

licences for artesian wells in Jordan, leakage in the old water networks and unorthodox uses of water will be reviewed in the papers, he said.

Mr. Tell said 79 per cent of the country's water supplies are being used for irrigation, 20 per cent for domestic use and one per cent for industry.

The amounts for domestic use can be boosted to 42 per cent and for industry to six per cent if farmers adopt drip irrigation methods to save on water consumption, said Mr. Tell.

Recent studies on the performance of the waste water treatment plant at Khirbet Al Samra, 39 kilometres northeast of Amman, and the resultant treated water, estimated at 120,000 cubic metres daily, will also come under scrutiny, he said.

Mr. Tell said legislation on the environment backed by a data bank providing information about such matters can help planners and decision-makers protect the country's environment.



CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE: Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Touqan and South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Han Li Thursday sign an agreement to implement a cultural and scientific programme from now and until 1995. The agreement provides for cooperation in the education, higher education, health, sports, youth, information, social development and tourism fields. The two sides agreed to exchange visits

by educational delegations, researchers, teachers and students on scholarships and to exchange books and organise joint exhibitions. They will also exchange information about primary health care, infectious diseases and exchange television and radio programmes on health and social matters and expertise related to tourism, traditional handicraft, special education for the handicapped, youth and sports.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Regent congratulates Oman, Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos Ben Saed of Oman congratulating him on his country's Nabha (renaissance) anniversary. Wishing Sultan Qaboos continued good health and happiness and the Omani people further progress and prosperity, Prince Hassan commended Jordanian-Omani relations and voiced pride in them. The Crown Prince sent a similar cable to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to congratulate him on the June Revolution anniversary.

### Trade officials in Lebanon for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket Thursday started a three-day official visit to Lebanon during which he will hold talks with Lebanese officials on ways to bolster economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Saket is accompanied on the visit by a delegation comprising Jordan's Ambassador to Lebanon Fakri Abu Taleb and Director of the ministry's Economic Cooperation Department Assem Al Hindawi.

### Lawyers head for Baghdad to meet counterparts

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) left Amman for Baghdad Friday on a week-long visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Bar Association. JBA Vice-President Ziad Al Khasawneh said the visit aims to enhance cooperation between the two associations and to exchange views on legislation governing the profession in Jordan and Iraq. A series of meetings will be held between officials from the two associations in the future with the objective of enhancing Arab cooperation, Mr. Khasawneh said.

### Panel prepares for International Family Year

AMMAN (Petra) — A national committee drawing plans for the Kingdom's celebrations of International Family Year will hold its second meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sgour. The committee is scheduled to discuss public and private preparations for the year and arrangements for the occasion. The committee was formed following the Declaration of 1994 as an international year of the family in accordance with U.N. General Assembly Resolution No. 44/82 for 1989.



EDUCATION MINISTRY AND UNRWA COOPERATE: Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari and other ministry officials meet with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) representatives. The minister commended the relations between the ministry and UNRWA. Dr. Omari said the ministry is particularly concerned with schools in the Kingdom, considering them the basic unit of the educational

### JPA, editors to form panel

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Council and chief editors of newspapers owned by political parties Thursday agreed to form a joint committee to discuss recent resolutions taken by the JPA on ways to deal with political publications. After handing a memorandum to the JPA council on their legal and political views, the

chief editors stressed their support of the association and the need to develop it. The JPA council on its part stressed that political newspapers are like any other newspapers and should be treated likewise. The council said any differences existing between the JPA and the political newspapers are of a legal nature and the current JPA laws are now old and should be updated.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakir Farzat at the Balka Art Gallery, Fuhes City.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jamal Khmeish and Jihad Abu Suleiman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wajdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al Mi'mar, Hazem Al Zu'bi, Abdul Raouf Sham'oun and Jalal Ureiqat at Eshbeela Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rana Dia and Mohammad Kadoumi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "No Capitalism, No Socialism" by Dr. Jalal Amin at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6.30 p.m.

### JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Arabic play entitled "Abhan Arab Summit" at 8.30 p.m. at the South Theatre of Jerash (starring top Jordanian comedians Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yonis).
- ★ Concert by Bashar and Ayman Zarqan at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.



MOSAIC UNCOVERED IN JERASH: The recently discovered Byzantine mosaic floor in the heart of the city of Jerash measures 4.5 by 5.75 metres. Department Director Safwan Tell, who inspected the find Thursday, said the unearthed floor, is part of a larger floor lying 2.5 metres under a street. The mosaic floor depicts human animal and plant designs, he noted. The floor was found by the department excavators on land owned by a local resident. The land lies amidst a residential area.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجزيرة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

## Hamas-Fateh rapprochement — fruitful or futile?

THE current dialogue between Hamas and Fateh, that started in Amman on July 15, 1993, exemplifies the question "Who outwits whom?" Both sides are keen on manipulating the other by the best maximalist formulae. Hamas, led by a current resident in Tehran, Imad Al Alami, is determined to discredit the PLO through these talks. Meanwhile, Fateh, led by a former resident of Iran, Hani Al Hassan, is equally enthusiastic to use manipulative gestures to extract concessions from Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Both sides thought it was an opportune time to deviously use each other to minimise losses to maximise gains.

The background of this story does not date back to the first Hamas-Fateh dialogue which should have started in Khartoum on Nov. 16, 1992. It is actually much more recent, since the time when many Fateh Central Committee members found themselves marginalised by the recent developments within the Fateh decision-making hierarchy. The list of those who felt themselves neglected included many well-known names who used to be instrumental in all Fateh affairs prior to the third round of Arab-Israeli peace talks. The list included names of those of Hani Al Hassan, former PLO ambassador to Khomenei's Tehran, Subhi Abu Karsh, Abu Al Munther, Abbas Zaki (Abu Mishal), Mohammad Jihad, Mohammad Ghoneim (Abu Maher), Selim Al Za'anoun (Abu Al Adeb), Sakher Habash and Abdullah Al Ifranji. This block of Central Committee members, though a very volatile block, expressed their resentment, during the June 10 meeting in Tunis, of the organisational set-up that is applied now with the PLO's higher echelons of power. They distrusted the larger-than-life roles being given to Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Nabeel Sha'ath, Hakam Bala'awi and Ahmed Qureeie (Abu Al Ala'a). They were very critical of the conciliatory neutral role taken by the supposedly number two man within the PLO, Farouq Qaddoumi (Abu Al Lutf), who is expected to handle all foreign issues including the ones pertaining to the peace process.

Though Mr. Arafat threatened to resign during the verbal confrontation within the Central Committee's heated debates, the old guards managed to extract two compromises. The first was an admission of alleged financial improprieties; consequently, Mr. Abu Karsh was entrusted with chairing an investigation committee. As for the second concession, it was a Palestinian national dialogue committee which was granted a mandate to discuss with Hamas as well as the other ten Damascus-based Palestinian factions the possibility of finding ways and means to coordinate stands.

But the crux of the issue regarding the PLO and the majority of the factions, including Hamas, is the Madrid peace formulae. Both sides are poles apart in their perspectives on and expectations of the peace components. So what is that requires a new start?

When the Hamas 3-man delegation arrived at Abbas Zaki's Fateh offices in Amman on July 15, 1993, Mohammad Nazzal and Sami Abdul Fattah were adamant in their demand for a PLO immediate withdrawal from the peace talks, while Adnan Samara, Nasser Yousef, Abbas Zaki and Hani Al Hassan were not enthusiastic advocates for the peace talks. It was evident throughout the talks that the old PLO guard, led by Al Hassan, is exerting a determined effort to defeat the PLO young turks led by Mr. Sha'ath and Mr. Abbas. Their analysis is that weakening Mr. Arafat might be conducive to weakening his strong support of the Sha'ath-Abbas axis and consequently would lead to a Hassan-Zaki emergence as the stronger echelons who stopped "deviations

and aberrations."

The Hamas assumption considers weakening Mr. Arafat as a pre-trial run to defeat the whole PLO within the rank and file of the Palestinian people both within the West Bank and Gaza and among refugees in camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the diaspora.

The first call for a Palestinian national dialogue did not come from Hani Al Hassan and his Central Committee. It was actually articulated for the first time by Hamas in December 1992, as part of a five-item agenda submitted to the Sudanese mediator, Dr. Hassan Abdullah Al Turabi, who tried the first reconciliation efforts in Khartoum. This mediation effort followed the incident of Nov. 16, 1992 when Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh (Abu Omar) refused to shake hands with Mr. Arafat who had arrived in Khartoum. Then, Mr. Ghosheh's excuse for his action was that the Hamas martyrs' blood in Gaza, spilled by Fateh assassins, was not dry yet.

The deportation of 419 Palestinians to Marj Al Zohour in Lebanon, forced Hamas and Fateh to resume the reconciliation talks which had been patronised by the Sudanese leader Turabi. One round of talks took place in November 1992; the second one was supposed to take place on Jan. 4, 1993. Mr. Turabi, then, forced the Hamas delegation to stay put for one whole week waiting for Mr. Arafat's delegation. Hamas then set the stage for this meeting by announcing its willingness to join the PLO umbrella without having a precondition any withdrawal from the peace talks with Israel. Furthermore, Hamas announced its acceptance of a gradual solution to the Palestinian problem through a Palestinian state to be established on just any part of the territory. Those statements by Mr. Nazzal, on Jan. 2, 1993, were interpreted as forming common ground with Fateh with the aim of facilitating the Khartoum dialogue. The statements were a turning point in the Hamas-Fateh relationship since the bloody July 8, 1992, when over 53 Palestinians were seriously wounded in severe armed clashes between thousand of followers of the two main groups in Gaza.

It is noteworthy in this respect to remark that the Khartoum meetings in early January 1993 were chaired by Mr. Turabi, Salim Za'anoun from Fateh and Musa Abu Marzuq from Hamas. Both Mr. Abu Marzuq and Mr. Za'anoun used to be active Muslim Brotherhood members, while Mr. Turabi is still one of the leaders of the Sudan Muslim Brotherhood.

When Mr. Arafat himself arrived in Khartoum and joined the meeting, he was asked to announce his acceptance of an all-Palestinian national dialogue in order to see the real number of those who are against the peace process. Mr. Arafat was asked to agree to what was called an "Armed Struggle Coordination Committee" within the occupied territories. A third demand by Hamas was a PLO withdrawal from the peace talks. Nothing materialised in spite of the typical Arab exchange of "brotherly kisses and verbal commitments to honour words."

In conclusion, the frequent recurrence of rapprochements and dialogues between Hamas and Fateh for the last two years give one indication that they all lead to a dead end. The futility of previous contacts is partially ascribed to the diametrically opposed ideological backgrounds of a secular Fateh and an Islamic Hamas. A Fateh with a peace agenda in mind can not tolerate a militant Hamas with jihad for the concept of liberation.

The Amman meetings of the two main Palestinian organisations, though adjourned for a week, will once again prove to be futile.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### Confederation — a choice hinging on Israeli withdrawal

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE Arabic daily newspapers in the past week tackled the Middle East, the projected Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, the continued embargo on Iraq and domestic affairs.

A confederation between Jordan and Palestine concerns the Jordanians and the Palestinians alone and this can only emerge after the end of Israeli occupation, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The paper said that the Israeli leaders are continually dwelling on the confederation issue in a bid to distract attention from the real issue of occupation and to divert world public opinion from the situation in the occupied lands.

The real issue, the paper said, is the continued occupation by Israel of Arab lands, in defiance of U.N. resolutions, and not the future relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people which is strictly the concern of the Palestinians and Jordanians alone.

Mohammad Kawash commented on the confederation issue by noting that Israel is keen on seeing this confederation take place now in order to prevent the creation of an independent Palestinian entity.

Israel does not want to recognise the Palestinian identity and therefore it is advisable for the Arab side to postpone talk about the confederation until after a peaceful settlement has been reached, said the writer in Al Dustour.

Despite the fact that the U.S.-Israeli alliance is known to be totally opposed to any unity between any two Arab states, this alliance is keen on a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, said Sawt Al-Shaab daily.

The paper said that Israel and the United States refuse to discuss the question of Jerusalem, which Israel considers as its eternal capital, and both want to see the West Bank joining with Jordan without the Holy City so as to escape the prospect of discussing the Jerusalem question during the ongoing peace process.

These views were echoed by Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, who said that any talk about a confederation is a form of pressure exerted on Jordan and the Palestinians who strive to ensure the complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied lands.

A confederation is premature and should hinge on and follow the completion of Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands, demanded the writer.

Tackling the same topic, Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian higher committee is currently discussing coordination between the Palestinians and the Jordanians at the peace process and not paying the ground for a confederation.

The Jordanians and the Palestinians have maintained very close links, based on geography, religion, common destiny and goals throughout the ages, with or without a confederation, said the writer. He said that the Jordanians and the Palestinians form one nation and a strong unity that no foreign aggression can disrupt.

Instead of implementing U.N. resolutions, Israel is trying to find means to prevail and come up with different suggestions, like withdrawing from Gaza first, said Mahmoud Rimawi.

The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that it is Israel's refusal to implement U.N. resolutions that rendered the 10th round of the peace process futile.

The Israelis are continually offering new ideas to escape the crucial issue of withdrawing their troops from the occupied lands and to escape any discussion about the future of Jerusalem which they claim should be the undivided capital of Israel.

Saleh Al Qallab said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who plans a tour of the Middle East soon, is expected to suggest that the peace process be resumed at the level of foreign ministers.

The writer, who writes for Al Dustour, said Mr. Christopher is also planning to sug-

gest that a confederation between Palestine and Jordan be implemented so as to facilitate the peace process and make it achieve success. But he said that this will be circumventing the question of Jerusalem, which the Arabs insist should be discussed while Israel adamantly refuses to include it on the agenda.

Mr. Christopher is coming here because his envoy, Dennis Ross, has failed to achieve any headway in the peace process, said Sawt Al-Shaab daily.

Numerous visits to the region by envoys, foreign ministers and even heads of state have failed to bring about largely due to Israel's intransigence, said the paper.

It said that if the U.S. administration seeks to achieve success, it ought to send Mr. Christopher with new proposals that would force Israel to comply with the international legitimacy, otherwise, Mr. Christopher's mission would be doomed like that of Mr. Ross.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, commented on the ongoing U.S. threats against Iraq, noting that the sanctions could kill a few Iraqis but can by no means bring about a change of the country's leadership.

The writer said that with their rocket attack on Baghdad last month, the Americans are providing evidence that they are after the Iraqi people, killing them and destroying their homes, but not hurting Iraqi leadership at all.

**"The Israeli leaders are continually dwelling on the confederation issue in a bid to distract attention from the real issue of occupation and to divert world public opinion from the situation in the occupied lands. The real issue is the continued occupation by Israel of Arab lands, in defiance of U.N. resolutions."**

With the aggression, the feeling of hatred towards the Americans is deepened and continues to deepen with the continued sanctions on the Iraqi people.

Al Ra'i columnist Tareq Masarweh said that the Iraqis are bound to face more acts of aggression from the Americans. Washington's lunatic racism is at its highest level now and nothing stands in the way of further acts of aggression against the people of Iraq under any pretext of protecting the Kurds, inspecting Iraqi scientific installations or any others.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said that the present government holds no power to bring about any change to the present Election Law now that a Royal decree has been issued for holding the elections.

The present government can only determine the date for holding the election without issuing a temporary law.

Michael Jumeian, a guest columnist in Al Dustour, urged heads of political parties to make their stand clear and declare their platform to the public so that the voters will be able to know exactly who they should give their votes to in the coming elections. Furthermore, the writer said, the public has the right to know the names of candidates from each party to avoid confusion, especially as most parties hold similar views.

Noting that the turnout at registration for elections is still very low, Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al-Shaab daily, said that the political parties concerned with the coming elections ought to join hands with the government in urging the electorate to register.

The writer said that the government should also offer facilities to the public and remove obstacles in the way of registration by cutting down on routine.

## Dangerous sea change!

A MOMENTOUS change, a change of seismic proportions in U.S. policy on the Palestine problem apparently became official on Wednesday, June 21, according to an answer given by Secretary of State Warren Christopher at a press conference in Washington before leaving on an extended foreign tour which will bring him to West Asia on Aug. 1.

The quite specific question was put by a senior correspondent of the Associated Press: "Is it U.S. government policy that the West Bank and Gaza, and East Jerusalem, is occupied territory?" Blinking nervously, as is his wont, the secretary refused to say, "Yes" without saying "No", in one of his usual, long rambling answers. The words he used were: "The status of the West Bank and Jerusalem were under active negotiation" and he did not want to get involved in the details.

Ever since the end of June or early July Washington has been letting slip that the West Bank and Gaza were no longer considered "occupied territories" but "disputed territories", sovereignty over which had yet to be negotiated. Now that hugely important, but so far, covert shift in policy has been almost officially confirmed and by no less a person than the secretary of state.

This could be the end of the foundation of the so-called "peace process" which since 1967 has been resolutions 242 and 338. Those two resolutions have been referred to so often as having become a sort of semi-mystical mantra, a ritualistic chant. And because the territories were "occupied" the corollary was that, sometime, they would be vacated and returned to the former owner, Jordan, or to its successor, the PLO. Hence the talks about the principles of "land for peace" and "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force."

Any negotiation about sovereignty in and ownership of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in which the U.S. has a part, will inevitably end up with sovereignty being awarded to Israel with the U.S. foursquare behind it, which will assert its ownership also because, in the meantime, Israel would have forcibly appropriated most of the territory anyway.

That result of the U.S. abandonment of 242 is bad enough, but it is limited in extent. Yet there is a much larger ill-effect unlimited in scope. By stepping back from a Security Council resolution which the U.S. itself helped to draft, which the U.S. voted for in the council, and which successive U.S. administrations have made the bedrock of their West Asia policy — only last year President George Bush repeated the fact that East Jerusalem was "occupied territory" — the Clinton administration has undermined, perhaps fatally, the entire U.N. system.

That system is about contentious issues being brought to the world body which debates them, produces resolutions, which, when passed, are at least supposed to be observed and implemented by member states; especially if they are mandatory council resolutions like 242. After what Christopher said on Wednesday, however, U.N. resolutions will become like items of food on a buffet table — some can be chosen and others neglected, according to choice and taste. For 26 years 242 "tasted" all right to the U.S., but since the Clinton administration took over it no longer does so and can be put aside.

The world has become used to changes of policy and of personnel in the U.S. when the Democrats take over from the Republicans or vice-versa. But there has to be continuity of certain basic principles, like the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Otherwise the international community would collapse into chaos and would not be a "community" because no one single country would know, for more than a few years at a time, where any other country stood on any particular issue.

It could be argued that the abandonment of 242 has come about because the Clinton administration's West Asia policy is now firmly controlled by American Jewish pro-Israeli Zionists who fill almost all important policy positions in the State Department, the White House and the National Security Council.

But faced with this abandonment of the basic principles of the peace process and of the Madrid formula, the only effective response that the Arabs, and especially the Palestinians, could give would be a final withdrawal from that process, and a refusal to return to Washington for the 11th round of the talks.

Every country that in any way depends on Security Council resolutions should take note of the grave dangers produced by the U.S. abandonment of 242.

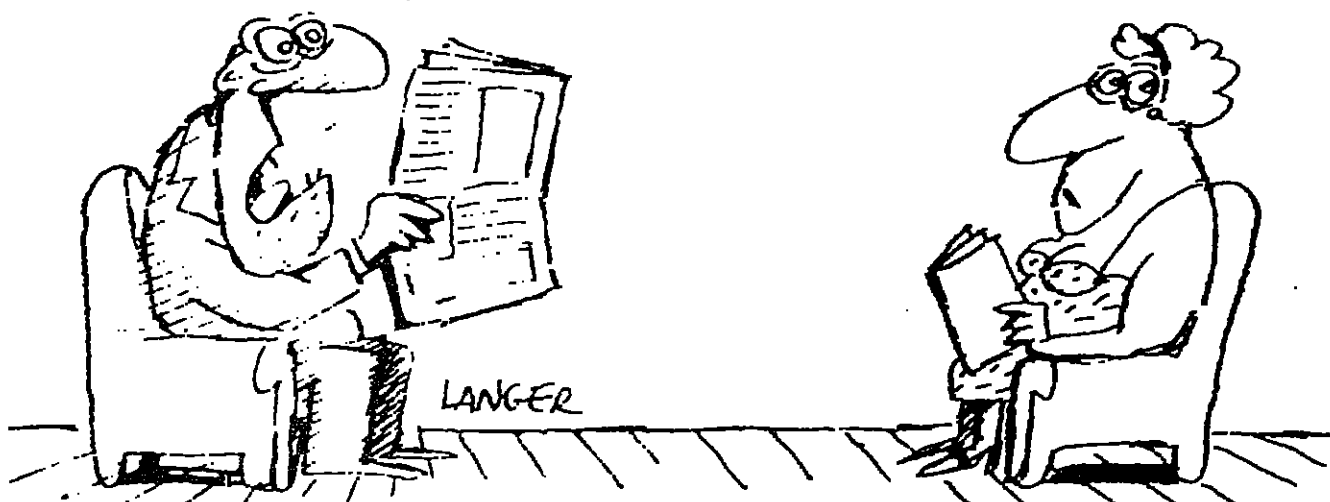
By G.H. Jansen

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily demanded a clear, United Arab stand vis-a-vis the open threats addressed at Lebanon and Syria by Israel. A clear stand is required at the moment to counter the arrogant and threatening stand of the Jewish state and its leaders who continue to issue statements implying an imminent incursion into Lebanon, said the paper. Arab countries involved in the peace process have a prime responsibility in this case and should take a collective stand and expose the Israeli position to the whole world, demanded the paper. Arab countries which are keen on pursuing the peace process and attain a just peace ought to make constructive moves at the regional and international levels to counter Israeli threats and preempt any aggression that is mainly aimed at thwarting the world community's efforts to achieve a just peace in the region, continued the daily. In their excuse for issuing the threats against Lebanon and Syria, the Israeli leaders cite the continued Lebanese resistance attacks on the Israeli troops and their allies in southern Lebanon, recalled the daily. It said that the Lebanese have the right to resist occupation of their country and combat aggression directed against them by Israel and its allies. The paper said that the world is watching the Israelis massing their troops and their tanks along the border with Lebanon in preparation for a fresh aggression. It demanded prompt intervention on the part of the world community to put an end to Israel's occupation and Israel's defiance of international rules.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily compared the United States and its arrogance with Hitler's Germany, which had similarly attempted to dominate world affairs. Abdul Rahim Omar said Hitler's actions and expansionist designs in Europe led to a world war causing so much destruction and loss of life. The second and final phase of the 20th century is witnessing a repeat of historical events represented in Washington's attempts to dominate the world and in Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands and eviction of Arab inhabitants, in defiance of all principles and international legitimacy, said the writer.

THE DEMAND FOR SOVIET SCIENTISTS IN THE USA IS GETTING A LITTLE OUT OF HAND... "BABY-SITTER. PREFERABLY NUCLEAR ENGINEER. PH. D. LENINGRAD UNIVERSITY. MIN. EXPERIENCE 20 YEARS SEND RESUME..."



By LANGER in Humor (Buenos Aires) C & W Syndicate

## Deadly waste

By Murray Feshbach

There may have been far more Chernobyls in the former Soviet Union than ever known, and the threat to local and even foreign populations may still be significant.

Last April 6 an accident occurred at the east Siberian city of Tomsk-7, resulting in the release of radioactive contamination into the atmosphere.

Tomsk-7 is one of 10 formerly closed, or "secret," nuclear cities of the former Soviet Union — or perhaps (if you include chemical and biological warfare activities) one of the 16 secret cities; or perhaps as many as 87 — all numbers propounded by sources in the former empire.

There and elsewhere, the problem of radioactive contamination is long-lasting, and the danger may be much higher than ever admitted.

The word "secret" is used in the sense that the cities were closed, were not shown on any Soviet map, were not counted in the population or the labour force, and their activities not

discussed seriously by the Soviet authorities until last year.

Then, at a May 1992 meeting in Stavanger, Norway, Viktor Mikhailov, the minister of Atomic Industry of Russia, indicated that these secret cities were part of the military-nuclear industry.

Concern over a nuclear brain drain and the control of nuclear materials is in part the underlying rationale for much of the foreign aid going to the former Soviet Union.

But much of the old network is not controlled, as witnessed by the growing number of attempts to smuggle out nuclear materials. Moreover, we are just beginning to learn about the stockpiles of nuclear and chemical materials at these secret cities and facilities.

Among the most hazardous materials we know about is dimethylhydrazine, also called heptyl, a liquid rocket fuel used for Russian missiles. It is classified as superoxide, carcinogenic, nerve paralyzing and volatile.

What is not known is how all this material is safeguarded. There may be 150,000 tonnes of heptyl in these closed cities, in missiles

stationed elsewhere, in production etc., but no technology exists for dealing with it.

In this matter in particular, technical assistance should be given only with great caution, with special attention paid to the recipients. Too many examples in the former Soviet Union exist of individuals such as the former director of the South Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plant, who turned off the safety valves three times in the past year despite all the stringent, post-Chernobyl regulations.

He was fired — finally — but only after the third such incident.

We are learning more about the dumping of radioactive waste and seeing more evidence of its presence: nuclear subs with live reactors and control rods; three ships in Murmansk harbour with radioactive waste; radioactivity coursing through the Ob and Yenisey rivers of Siberia towards the Arctic Ocean.

In addition, there are about 160 nuclear submarines awaiting dismantling — and with a bad track record of accidents, including the release of radioactivity in the Sea of Japan area and in the

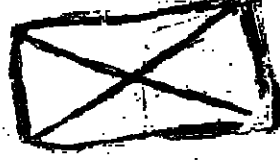
north near Severodvinsk, the nuclear submarine-producing port. Severodvinsk has recently been reclassified as a closed city.

One should note, in addition, the 115 so-called "civilian" nuclear explosions since the mid-1960s.

The tasks involved in cleaning up, of disarmament and dismantling, of defusing and detoxifying, are enormous. We need bilateral and multilateral approaches in order to be successful. Failure to do so leaves at risk much of the earth: Europe, Japan, the U.S., Canada, the Middle East.

The U.S. does not have enough money for all of these requirements, but it does have the technical capabilities, management and environmental leadership to help the new members of the international community with their staggering problems.

All the aid packages in the world will not help Russia and the rest of the former USSR resolve their economic and political dilemmas if they are undergoing environmental and health disasters at the same time — The Jerusalem Post.











## Jordanian industrial goods have 63.3% import content

Following is the second and last part of an article on industrialisation in Jordan. This part details the key factors that constitute the value added content and states various recommendations to advance the industrial sector.

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian industry is so heavily reliant on imported raw materials that, according to economist and newspaper columnist Fahd Al Fanek, the value added percentage is only 36.7 per cent of the total cost of a product.

Describing the percentage as "generally very low," Dr. Fanek explained in a lecture at an economic symposium organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies and held recently at the University of Jordan, that industrial products at sale prices have an estimated JD 1,752 million value. Out of this amount, JD 973 million are costs of raw and intermediate materials used in the production process.

By adding JD 136 million of other expenses unrelated to the production process to the aforementioned costs, the net value added figure works out to be JD 643 million spread over wages (JD 169 million), indirect taxes (JD 123 million), fixed assets' depreciation (JD 106 million) and other amounts related to banks' interest, income tax, consolidating reserves and dividends to shareholders.

Wages represented 26.3 per cent of the value added amount or 9.6 per cent of the products' final value. As such, Dr. Fanek said, raising or reducing the wage factor was relatively of low effect on the final cost of an industrial product.

Dr. Fanek cautioned that since wages take 26.3 per cent of the value added amount, it should not be misunderstood that the remaining 73.7 per cent of the value added goes to the industrialists.

He said depreciation accounts for 16.5 per cent of the value added amount and indirect taxes, especially relating to fuel, cigarettes, drinks and other items, account for another 19.1 per cent.

By deducting these two elements the surplus from operations would be 38.1 per cent from which approximately 3.8 per cent bank interest, 1.7 per cent and five per cent income tax would be paid leaving 27.6 per cent for the industrialists.

As such, owners of industries get a share of value added almost equal to the workers who, according to Dr. Fanek, receive a JD 196 monthly salary of which JD 164 is a direct cash payment and the rest in other fringe benefits.

The study analyses the inputs required by industrialists and notes that 50 per cent of the purchases are directly imported from abroad, 10 per cent are (indirect) imports available in the local market, 25 per cent are inputs purchased from other Jordanian industrial firms and the rest, 15 per cent, local materials. Dr. Fanek recalled in his study

Share percentage of mining and convertible industry in gross domestic product at cost			
Year	Mining	Convertible industry	Total
1986	4.07	11.08	15.15
1987	4.09	11.04	15.12
1988	3.77	8.88	12.65
1989	4.66	12.30	16.96
1990	4.07	13.50	17.57
1991	3.19	12.89	16.08
1992	3.06	13.05	16.11

that the dinar devaluation in 1988/89 was not welcomed by Jordanian industrialists because expenditure on raw materials, machinery and spares by the industrial sector has exceeded the earnings from exports. However he pointed out that the situation would gradually change as higher foreign exchange costs would prompt higher utilisation of local inputs and would nudge industrialists to give priority to exports.

According to the study, there were 15,348 industrial units in Jordan at the end of 1991. The units employed 89,297 workers of whom 5.6 per cent were female and 19.3 per cent were unsalaried (indicating that many were family members or trainees).

Employment in the mining branch of the industrial sector represents only two per cent of the workforce although mining accounts for 40 per cent of national exports.

Convertible industries employed eight per cent of the workforce at the end of 1991 although this industrial field serves mostly the local market.

The study examined the share of both industrial branches in the gross domestic product (GDP) pointing out that mining

tries, Arab and foreign equity is 9.1 per cent with the rest, 54.5 per cent, being private sector equity.

4) Total taxes and indirect fees collected from the industrial sector amounted to JD 123 million of which 96.4 per cent were production and consumption taxes.

5) Phosphate and potash mining has limited scope and, as the Kingdom is near mining close to these limits, Jordan must focus on other resources, such as those in the Dead Sea and on expanding extraction of marble and granite among other construction materials.

Dr. Fanek recommended that Jordanian industries strive to raise the value added factor in their production by embarking on true industrial processes and not be satisfied by only canning or packaging imported products.

He further suggested linking wages to productivity on sound and agreed basis and not merely rely on factors of seniority and annual raises.

Other recommendations proposed by Dr. Fanek were:

A) Increased reliance on local elements, they be raw materials, expertise or labour.

B) Controlling costs and minimising losses and waste of resources.

C) Providing extra attention to the export drive to transform the industrial sector from being a net importer to a net exporter status.

According to the 1993-1997 development plan, which was quoted by Dr. Fanek in his study, industrial advancement can be better achieved through the following policies:

I — Adoption of one central unit at the Ministry of Industry and Trade to build and provide an information base about the investment climate and investment opportunities available.

II — Facilitating procedures to obtain import and export permits whereby the procedures serve only the collection of fees and imposing boycott regulations.

III — Limiting all registration and licensing procedure to one window.

IV — Encouraging the formation of public shareholding companies through lessening the tax burden on these companies and removal of legislations hindering the transformation of private companies to public shareholding companies.

The adoption of an automatic mechanism to issue, price and float shares by investment banks, and putting the adequate legislation to prevent manipulation in share prices or hiding information, were also mentioned for activating industrial progress.

V — Encouraging the financial sector to provide funds for investments through supporting the capabilities of the Industrial Development Bank, export finance guarantee corporation and through the creation of an institution to partially guarantee loans to small projects.

VI — Amending the law for encouraging investment to include additional incentives.

VII — Providing tax incentives through various deductions.

VIII — Organising auditing procedures.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (17/07/1993 - 21/07/1993)				
WEEKLY REPORT				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	1,815,430	184,000	185,000	174,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	644,772	7,000	6,950	6,800
SAUDI ARAB BANK	70,724	44,000	44,000	42,250
BANK OF JORDAN	283,154	5,120	5,250	5,250
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	315,155	2,000	2,000	2,100
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	686,076	6,050	6,070	6,450
THE HOUSE OF BANK	379,897	6,050	6,050	6,000
JORDAN TRUST BANK	749,953	2,570	2,580	2,600
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	167,742	5,400	4,420	4,320
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	316,742	5,400	5,400	5,750
ARAB BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	38,868	5,000	5,100	4,750
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	609,209	5,050	5,120	5,100
REIT CLAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR JORDAN	11,431	2,300	2,300	2,329
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	2,926,819	2,140	2,210	2,180
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	29,502	4,700	4,700	4,610
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	467,072	3,000	3,150	3,000
JORDAN INSURANCE	28,374	4,250	4,350	4,400
MIDDLE EAST INSURANCE	13,406	3,250	3,250	3,250
ARABIAN REAS INSURANCE	65,066	6,250	6,010	6,020
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	5,029	3,250	3,250	3,250
JORDAN INSURANCE	100,628	4,120	4,200	4,220
JORDAN PREMIER INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
JORDAN PREMIER INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
YAMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	10,125	3,450	3,620	3,400
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	2,750	2,750	2,750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	147,644	3,880	3,950	3,940
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1,084	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	49,725	3,700	3,700	3,700
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	4,577	2,300	2,350	2,350
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	17,778	3,320	3,280	3,000</



## Fighting continues in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Artillery duels continued in Sarajevo Friday after massive bombardments Thursday that led to the postponement of peace talks in Geneva.

The Bosnian Serbs' commander in chief, General Arko Mladic, was meanwhile leading an assault on the Bosnian army stronghold of Mount Igman, looming over Sarajevo Airport.

Journalists who met him on the mountain Thursday were able to discount rumours sweeping Sarajevo that he had lost both legs in the fighting and that his deputy had been killed.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) commander Francis Briquemont, a Belgian general, was on his way to meet Gen. Mladic Friday in a bid to halt the week-old offensive, UNPROFOR spokesman Barry Frewer reported.

In Brussels, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, representing the European Community, said he would meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on Aug. 2.

Mr. Claes had failed to meet Mr. Milosevic during a 36-hour visit to the Serbian capital in

which he warned that the Yugoslav Federation (comprising Serbia and Montenegro) faced further sanctions if Serb military offensives in Bosnia continued.

A senior NATO diplomat in Brussels said U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to delay its new aerial operation over Bosnia, to defend U.N. forces there, until air controllers could be deployed.

Meanwhile Commander Frewer blamed Thursday's fighting — condemned by the U.N. Security Council — on "a concerted Serb attack on Sarajevo."

He said the Serbs were "putting pressure on all areas" of the besieged capital, which has been under daily bombardment for more than 15 months.

U.N. observers counted 3,777 shells fired into Sarajevo by the Bosnian Serb gunners Thursday, Mr. Frewer said. Most were on the western outskirts, which the Serbs would need to neutralise if they descended Igman to invade the city centre.

Mr. Frewer gave a provisional toll for Thursday's fighting of seven people in Sarajevo killed and 49 wounded.

On Friday, the firing continued through the morning, but at a much level lower than Thursday, where the shell-count was one of the highest since the Serbs laid siege to the valley city in April, last year.

The shelling increased early afternoon to become steady at the western end of the city. A direct hit Thursday knocked out an electricity sub-station in the downtown neighbourhood of Velestici, one of only three still operating.

President Alija Izetbegovic refused Thursday to attend the talks in Geneva on dividing up this former Yugoslav republic among Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

They were to have resumed Friday, but Mr. Izetbegovic said the Muslim-dominated presidency would not attend until Serb attacks on Sarajevo and around the northeastern Serb-held town of Brcko subsided. International mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg subsequently delayed the talks until Sunday.

Fighting was continuing around Brcko Friday, Radio Sarajevo reported, while Maj. Frewer said

the Bosnian army commander in the area had reported that the Serbs were using Soviet Frog-7 ground-to-ground missiles — a first in the war.

The Brcko area forms part of a strategic Serb corridor linking Serb-held areas of northern Bosnia with Serbia.

Another of Mr. Izetbegovic's conditions — relief for the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde — was met Thursday when Serb women finally allowed a 10-truck convoy through. U.N. relief officials had described the blockade as an "orchestrated" campaign.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Peter Kessler said the convoy, which took in 84 tonnes of supplies for 60,000 people, was the first to get through since July 10. A relief plane dropped 59 tonnes of supplies on Gorazde overnight, Mr. Frewer reported.

The first convoy to reach Sarajevo since July 13 also rolled in Thursday with 140 tonnes of supplies, followed by a Bosnian Croats' decision to open the main relief route from the southern Croatian town of Metkovic.



A man checks the water level on a parking metre in front of a store in south St. Louis (AFP photo)

## More rains threaten drenched midwest as U.S. Congress bickers over aid

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Neither the weather nor Washington is offering any solace to the inundated midwest as thunderstorms promise more rain and lawmakers bicker over how to pay for flood relief.

More thunderstorms, some of them strong, were developing throughout the midwest Thursday evening. Flooding rains first started in the midwest more than a month and a half ago.

Despite the human misery and repeated visits by federal officials, including President Bill Clinton, Congress could not get its act together on an emergency aid package for the flood's victims.

A dispute in the House of Representatives over how to pay for the \$3 billion assistance held up passage of the bill. A vote was not scheduled.

Flooding since the start of June has been blamed for at least 33 deaths, caused \$10 billion in damage and left 16,000 square miles (25,744 square kilometres) of farmland underwater. More than 32,000 homes have been damaged, the American Red Cross estimated Thursday.

And no relief came from the Mississippi River, which held in a "flat, broad crest" for more than 200 miles (320 kilometres) from Grafton, Ill., to Cape Girardeau, Mo., said Tom Dietrich, a National Weather Service hydrologist in St. Louis.

"We really are at a crisis and we are going to be hanging up there

the next three, four, five days," Mr. Dietrich said.

But at least Des Moines had water, tap water that is, for the first time in 12 days.

After they refilled the city's 810 miles (1,300 kilometres) of mains and restored fire protection, officials announced at midmorning that people in one quadrant of the city could open faucets and resume flushing toilets and taking showers.

By evening water service had been restored to the entire city.

River engineers are worried that hundreds of miles of saturated levees could crumble as the high water persists.

The river was at 46.9 feet (14.25 metres) Thursday at St. Louis, down slightly from the record 47.05 feet (14.33 metres) Tuesday night, Mr. Dietrich said.

He said the level will continue to fluctuate because of factors including upstream rain, levee breaks and levee repairs. Flood stage is 30 feet (9.1 metres).

Downtown St. Louis is protected by a 52-foot-high (15.85-metre-high) floodwall, but a neighbourhood at the city's southern tip has been badly flooded as sandbagged levees were swept away.

One of the worst levee breaks along the Mississippi was one at West Quincy, Mo., last Friday that closed the last open bridge over the river for a 200-mile (320-kilometre) stretch. Dan Campbell, sheriff of Marion County, Mo., said Thursday he

will investigate whether someone deliberately broke that levee. He said water district officials were suspicious because the levee seemed to be in good condition just before the break.

In Illinois, the Mississippi River swept over an island that it created in a flood more than a century ago. A levee blew out on the 15,000-acre (6,000-hectare) Kaskaskia Island, some-one rang the town's 252-year-old "liberty bell of the west" to warn anyone who hadn't already fled.

Heavy rains also caused flooding in parts of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and North Dakota.

Another levee broke Thursday on the Missouri River, this one protecting farmland in Saline County, Mo.

Meanwhile, nearly one in five U.S. residents believes the disastrous Mississippi River flooding is God's revenge against sinners, a new poll said Thursday.

The Cable News Network/USA Today/Gallup poll asked 1,011 respondents whether "the recent floods in the midwest are an indication of God's judgment on the people of the United States for their sinful ways."

Some 18 per cent agreed, 78 per cent disagreed and four per cent had no opinion.

On another question, 63 per cent said the U.S. government responded to the flooding as quickly as it could, while 29 per cent disagreed. The rest had no opinion.

## Japan LDP sees power slipping away

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which lost its parliamentary majority in elections this week, saw its 38-year-long hold on power slipping away Friday when two key parties moved towards the opposition camp.

An uncommitted bloc whose votes could swing the parliamentary ballot for a new prime minister announced a platform unlikely to be acceptable to the LDP.

Leaders of the Japan New Party (JNP) and the Harbinger New Party said they would insist that any government they backed should reconvene parliament in September and push through curbs on political corruption.

Their statement said parliament should act by December to introduce an electoral system combining single-seat districts with a form of proportional representation, adopt stiff anti-graft

laws and ban private firms making political donations.

These are the pillars of a platform long sought by the opposition but always blocked by the LDP which has been in power since 1955 and is struggling to form a government by securing a working parliamentary majority.

Tsutomu Hata, an LDP defector who now leads the 55-strong Japan Renewal Party and is seen as a possible coalition prime minister, welcomed the statement.

"This is very much like our own basic policy," Mr. Hata said on television. "It looks like we can form a viable government."

Last Sunday, the LDP finally lost its majority in a general election and was plunged into crisis. But with 223 seats in the 511-seat lower house it remains Japan's largest party.

"It is highly unlikely that the

LDP in its present form can agree to this platform," Masayoshi Takemura, leader of the Harbinger New Party, told a news conference.

Mr. Takemura and JNP chief Morihiro Hosokawa said they had not formally decided to commit themselves to either the LDP or the five-party opposition bloc.

However, they said they might join a coalition, going back on a pledge to stay out of government under any condition.

Lame duck LDP Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa resigned as party president Thursday to take responsibility for the election defeat. He will stay as caretaker premier until Aug. 2 when parliament meets to choose his successor.

At an emergency LDP convention Thursday, hardliners at first moved to settle the succession issue in the old style — through backroom horse-trading.

## Nicaraguan recaptures Esteli

ESTELI, Nicaragua (AP) — The Nicaraguan army recaptured this northern city after a day and a half of fierce fighting with anti-government rebels that left at least 45 people dead.

The battle was one of the worst outbreaks of fighting in Nicaragua since the civil war ended in 1990.

The group of about 150 rebels "was broken up and defeated in 24 hours," Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Ricardo Wheelock told a state-owned radio station.

He reported 41 rebels, two soldiers and two civilians killed, and 98 people wounded. A nurse in the city's only hospital reported that up to 100 civilians had been treated at the crowded facility, which was overrun by rebels carrying on their battle from there.

Booming artillery and tank fire reverberated across this city of 137,000 Thursday as troops battled rebels in house to house combat. Many residents hid inside shuttered homes.

The fighting was a flareup of tensions and passions that have kept Nicaragua at war with itself to varying degrees for 14 years.

Former fighters with the two sides in the civil war — the U.S.-backed contras and the leftist Sandinistas — have teamed up in a rebel movement to protest what they say are broken promises by the government of Presi-

dent Violeta Chamorro. She promised land, tools and other support to former fighters of both sides, but much of it was never delivered.

There were varied reports, however, on the identities of the rebels in the Esteli battle.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said in Washington that the rebels were only made up of former Sandinista soldiers, not ex-contras.

But Nicaraguan officials said that both contras and former Sandinistas were involved in the fighting in Esteli. A Rebel who identified himself as "Pedron" also told a local radio station the attack was carried out by both ex-contras and former soldiers.

"The police have become a repressive organ," he said. "People are dying of hunger and the government is doing nothing."

While the rearmend former rebels have been a nuisance to the Chamorro government with recent banditry, they do not yet appear to pose a serious threat to it.

Still, Gen. Humberto Ortega, the armed forces chief, himself a former Sandinista rebel leader, vowed earlier Thursday that the rebels would be captured and dealt with harshly.

"The army will capture these armed men in short order and they will be dealt with harshly,"

he said to reporters in Managua, the capital 60 miles to the south.

Col. Wheelock said government troops had captured 59 of the rebels.

At least 150 rebels were involved in the fighting, which started Wednesday when attackers plundered three banks, a supermarket and attacked police stations.

The rebels said they were led by a former Sandinista army major, Victor Manuel Gallegos Hernandez. Col. Wheelock said he and his aides were believed to have fled south with \$4 million robbed from banks.

It was not clear Thursday whether the attack on Esteli was the scene of occasional rebel attacks — was an isolated action or part of a larger campaign.

Rebels took over the city's only hospital, firing from the facility's windows and doors, as medics ducked and dozens of wounded civilians spilled from crowded rooms and into corridors.

The rebels Thursday released the Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras after capturing him Wednesday as they drove along the Panamerican Highway near Esteli, according to the government.

Honduran officials said Noel Rivas Gasteazoro, 72, was released unharmed. The fates of his wife and driver, also captured, were not specified.

## French student takes expensive Scottish taxi

EDINBURGH (R) — A French student was taken for an expensive ride when he arrived at Edinburgh Airport, Scottish media reported. Hotel Catering Manager Hugues Flaugnatt flew from Paris to Edinburgh for an English language course. At the airport the driver of an unmarked car asked him if he wanted a taxi. Mr. Flaugnatt was taken eight miles (13 km) to his address in central Edinburgh, where the driver said the fare was £148 (\$224) — 10 times the usual fare. He thought that was expensive but, unused to the currency, paid up.

## Photo forces British prison to fit new locks

LONDON (R) — A British prison spent up to £85,000 (\$128,600) on new locks after inmates saw a closeup photograph of the governor unlocking a cell and copied the keys, a newspaper said. Today newspaper said criminals at Blakenhurst Prison in central England pounced on the picture and got to work. "The governor might as well have slipped replicas under the cell doors. The lads couldn't believe their luck," a prison source was quoted as saying. The photograph of Governor David Brooke brandishing the keys, taken during an open day for visitors, was printed by a local paper which was circulated in the prison. "In this case it appears necessary for some, if not all, of the cells to be fitted with new locks," a government spokesman told the newspaper.

## Landowners warn of poor grouse shooting season

EDINBURGH (R) — Landowners in the Scottish highlands warned that the 1993 grouse shooting season would be poor, with serious economic consequences for rural communities. Richard Cook, a senior official of the Game Conservancy, said the season starting on Aug. 12 would have a below average number of birds for the fifth year in a row. Overseas visitors make up 80 per cent of grouse shooting parties and bring in about £23 million (\$34.7 million) a year for Britain. Mr. Cook said the number of birds had been declining for 50 years and many Scottish landowners had converted their moors to other uses, such as forestry. Disney Barlow, chairman of the 4,000-strong Scottish Landowners Federation, said Gamekeepers risked losing their jobs — a blow to the environment and natural heritage.

## British couple try to 'unadopt' problem child

LONDON (R) — A British couple is trying to revoke their adoption of a boy from a children's home who they say has grown into an uncontrollable and violent youth because of early sexual abuse, the Independent reported. The parents are applying to the courts to overturn a 1987 adoption order on the grounds that they were unaware of the boy's troubled history when they agreed to take him. "By the time he left us we had given our all. We were physically, emotionally and financially broken," the father was quoted as saying. The boy, now 13, had to be put in local authority care and now lives in a secure institution.

## Wrong twin jailed for slashing stepmother's throat

NEW YORK (R) — In a bizarre case of mistaken identity, police arrested and jailed the wrong identical twin for assaulting and sodomising his stepmother, who could not tell the two 16-year-old boys apart. The Manhattan district attorney revealed the incident but provided few details about the attack in New York City in which the woman's throat was slashed. New York Newsday, a New York daily paper, quoted law enforcement sources as saying investigators realised the mistake when they found small knife marks on the other brother's hands.

## Stop wine-ing

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community will have more than 15 bottles of surplus wine in store for every man, woman and child in the bloc by the end of the century and Farm Commissioner Rene Steichen says it's time to get rid of it. The Community accounts for 60 per cent of world wine production but its citizens are drinking less wine, imports are rising and exports stagnating. Schemes to cut wine output by digging up vineyards are being swamped by rising yield resulting from new production methods. The commission wants to see farmers paid more to dig up vineyards. "The EC produces too much wine," Mr. Steichen said.



Mashrek International Schools  
Ecole Internationale Al-Mashreq

- Critical thinking is the basis for knowledge and every thought can be criticized and improved. It is the ability to visualize other options and alternate solutions as well as to experiment with new methods. Critical thinking is -above all- a willingness and ability to judge stereotypical and traditional beliefs and behaviours. Critical thinking is adapting to the future; it is the basis for contemporary education.
- Prejudice of any kind is a destructive disease to human society. It is closely related to weak self confidence and distorted sense of justice, and carrying it too far makes it an ugly symptom of mental and psychological illness. The greatness of man lies in his capacity to engulf the whole wide world in his small heart and to sprinkle his small being to encompass the whole existence.

■ Mashrek International School prepares students to sit for the (Tawjihi) exams in accordance with the curricula of The Ministry of Education. It also prepares those who wish of its students for the I.G.C.S.E Exams

■ The school provides to its K.G students a comprehensive curriculum both in Arabic and English. It uses the "Whole Language" approach in presenting the curriculum, taking into account the individual differences of students in this stage.

■ Mashrek International School will pay special attention to French language, computer, vocational education, arts, music, theatre and sports activities.

■ The week end is on Thursday and Friday.

▲ Mashrek International School receives students as of the beginning of the 1993/94 school year, in the K.G. and the first seven basic grades. Higher grades will be opened year after year (one grade each year) until both the basic and secondary stages are complete.

▲ The registration office at the school premises Jubilee Circle / Tlaa AL-ALI, is open for student registration for the academic year 1993/1994

opening hours  
09:00 - 14:00 and 16:00 - 18:00  
Personal, telephone or written inquiries are welcome.  
Tel: 834321 - Fax: 834581 - P.O.Box: 1412  
Amman - Jordan.

Administration:  
General Director: Bassam Ahmad Malhas (MA Social Work)  
School Principal: Hana AL-Nasser Malhas (MA Education)  
K.G. principal: Jill Battikhi (K.G. Specialist)



# Sports

## French League rules out demoting Marseille

PARIS (Agencies) — The French Football League said Friday it would impose its own sanctions in response to the Olympique Marseille match-rigging scandal within a fortnight but ruled out demoting the champions to division two.

Noel Le Graet, the league president, said he was sure Marseille would "begin and end the 1993-94 season" in division one. But he was much more guarded about whether Marseille would be allowed to defend their European Champions Cup crown.

The League's move came despite indications that the legal proceedings surrounding the alleged attempt by Marseille General Manager Jean-Pierre Bernes to bribe opponents last season would drag on for months. Bernes, who is accused of trying to bribe three Valenciennes players to take it easy during a match on May 20, was released conditionally from custody Thursday.

He denies any involvement in the affair but is accused by Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie as well as the three Valenciennes players.

Eydelie claims he acted as a go-between between Bernes and the Valenciennes players. Two of them, Jorge Burruchaga and Christophe Robert, have been charged with corruption, as well as Bernes's wife Marie-Christine. Police have recovered 240,000 francs (\$44,000) of a sum given to Robert.

State prosecutor Eric de Montfollier, who objected to Bernes being released, predicted there would be no important developments in the case before the autumn.

"There will be a slowing down, but only compared with a month of galloping," he said.

The league was decided however that the legal authorities had come up with enough evidence for them to make decisions about the professional futures of the



Jacques Glassman (right) who revealed bribes contacts from the Olympique Marseille arrives at the Valenciennes Justice Hall for the first confrontation with the protagonists of the scandal (AFP photo)

players involved. Eydelie, Burruchaga and Robert will be heard from Monday. The football authorities are also hoping to speak to Bernes.

The strain of the affair showed signs of telling on Marseille President Bernard Tapie, who now faces a second lot of charges related to the affair.

France 3-Mediterranee, part of the public France-3 chain, said Friday it would be pressing criminal damage charges after an incident Thursday when Tapie allegedly threw a television camera into the Mediterranean.

The crew were trying to film Bernes on Tapie's yacht, the Phoebe, off Hyeres after his release from custody.

According to the television chain, Tapie and his parliamentary aide Marc Frattani left the Phoebe aboard a lifeboat. They boarded the journalists vessel and despite the warnings of Frattani, Tapie grabbed the 240,000 franc (\$41,000) camera and threw it in the water. The equipment sank to the bottom and could not be

recovered. The Journalists' Trades Union later said it would also be bringing an action against Tapie for attempting to restrict the freedom of the press.

Mr. Tapie, minister for towns in the Socialist administration that lost power earlier this year, also faces defamation charges after comparing the methods of the examining magistrate in the case to those of the Nazi Gestapo.

The next step in the investigation, due next week, is a hearing for former Valenciennes trainer Boro Primorac in front of the examining magistrate. Primorac has accused Tapie of asking him to carry the can for the affair.

Meanwhile in an interview with the Marseille daily Le Provençal after his release, Bernes again proclaimed his innocence and said the entire affair was aimed at discrediting Tapie.

"I cannot prove something that isn't true," Bernes was quoted as saying. "It's not me they are after in this affair, they want to get Bernard Tapie."

## China scorns U.S. meddling in Peking 2000 Olympic bid

PEKING (R) — China Friday rebuked U.S. lawmakers for trying to derail Peking's bid to host the 2000 Olympics on human rights grounds, calling the effort a purely political undermining of Olympic ideals.

Chinese Olympic Committee President He Zhenliang also argued strongly for awarding the 27th Olympiad to a developing country like China, saying all but two of the 22 modern games have been held in developed countries.

"If the Olympics belong only to the rich countries, then the games have no future," he told a Peking Foreign Correspondents' Club luncheon.

On human rights, he repeated China's standard defence that lives have improved vastly under communism and that no country — not even the United States — has a perfect record.

But he added that such considerations do not apply to selection of host cities for the Olympic Games.

"The Olympics is a movement to gather the youth of the world without distinctions of colour, race, ideology and religious beliefs," he said.

"If you put all the political, religious, racial and colour problems into that, the Olympic movement will be destroyed."

He chastised as "purely political" interference the resolutions put before the U.S. Congress on July 15, which urged the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to reject Peking when members select the 27th Olympiad host city on Sept. 23.

"I'm totally against this because it is an infringement of Olympic principles. It is unacceptable," he said.

U.S. sponsors of the bills argued that by seeking the 2000 games, China was trying to divert attention from what they called its repressive human rights record.

He denied knowing of anyone being arrested for opposing China's bid, although one man is known to have been detained in April for trying to organise an anti-games campaign.

He argued that popular opposition, though existing, was minuscule, citing a survey of 10,000 Peking residents showing that 98.7 per cent endorse hosting the games.

He aimed a personal barb at what he called questionable U.S. human rights policy, saying U.S. authorities had four times denied a visa for his young niece to visit her mother and sisters, who are living in the United States.

"No country is perfect," he said. "The United States ... also has human rights problems but is this a reason to deny it the right to stage the (1996) Olympic Games in Atlanta?"

He rejected suggestions that China was using questionable methods to win votes from the 91 International Olympic Committee members who will decide the Peking bid's fate.

He acknowledged that China had paid for visits to Peking by 64 of the 91 International Olympic Committee members but said this was normal practice.

He also said China had financed the building of 34 sports facilities in developing countries, but said this was part of China's foreign policy and that the programme had been in place for many years before Peking made its Olympic bid.

## Abdourajabov takes 2nd win in Tour De France

BORDEAUX, France (Agencies) — Djamilidinc Abdourajabov of Uzbekistan won his second stage victory of the Tour De France with a powerful final sprint in Bordeaux Friday.

Abdourajabov easily outdistanced his rivals in the last 100 metres of the 200.5-km 18th stage from Orthez but almost blew his chances by raising his arms in triumph too soon.

Seeing his opponents closing fast, the Uzbek hastily grabbed his handlebars again and pedalled over the line for a win to add to his victory in the third stage at Dinard.

American Frankie Andreu was second and Rolf Sorensen of Denmark third.

The three were in a group of just over 20 riders who broke away in the latter part of the stage.

Race leader Miguel Indurain finished in the main peloton almost five minutes later but retained his leader's yellow jersey with just two stages of the race left.

With only Saturday's time trial and a gentle run into Paris Sunday to come, Indurain's cushion of 4min 28seconds looks extremely comfortable — particularly since the Spaniard is almost unbeatable in solo rides against the clock.

Few would have bet against Indurain completing his Tour De France hat-trick this year — including his greatest rivals.

Only Swiss duo Tony Rominger and Alex Zülle, winner and runner-up in the Tour of Spain, have shown the confidence to make a challenge.

But after Indurain came safely through the final mountain stage Thursday, with a cushion of nearly four and a half minutes intact, there appears little that can be done to stop him taking another victory bow this weekend.

In contrast to the attitude of the Swiss, the highly-rated Italians seemed certain of defeat even before the first stage had started.

Claudio Chiappucci declared Indurain was unbeatable, while Gianni Bugno was crestfallen after his failure in the Tour of Italy, won inevitably by the Spaniard.

The only hope was that Indurain, now unbeaten in a record five consecutive major tour events in Italy and France, might crack in the mountains after he had looked vulnerable near the end of the Giro this year.

Rominger and Zülle also needed what luck was going. Instead, Indurain looked as strong as ever — and fortune went his way as well.

First Rominger, who had already lost two key teammates, was hit by a time penalty in the team time trial, and then Zülle fell badly, losing two minutes.

Indurain saw his chance and blew the race apart during three key stages.

First he annihilated the opposition in his favourite discipline, the individual time trial, taking the yellow jersey despite a puncture at the end of the 59km 9th stage at Lac de Madine.

Then, when everybody expected him to sit back and wait for a counter-attack — Indurain's last two Tour wins have been based solely on time trial successes backed up by solid defensive riding — he attacked immediately in the mountains.

His offensive in the first mountainous stage of the race on July 14 — Bastille Day — splintered the entire field.

That performance was followed by an equally virtuoso ride the next day and the race was effectively over at the halfway mark.

Only Rominger managed to keep up in the Alps, but by then the Swiss rider was so far behind overall that he needed to break the leader, not match him, if he was to win.

## Mexico trounce Jamaica 6-1 to reach CONCACAF final

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico trounced Jamaica 6-1 in the semi-finals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup Thursday to set up a tantalising showdown with the U.S. national team in Sunday's final.

Cheered on by a near-capacity crowd of more than 90,000 in the mighty Azteca Stadium, Mexican fans rang around their hapless visitors and were clearly out to repeat last week's 9-0 drubbing of Martinique and 8-0 slaughter of Canada.

Luis Miguel Salvador opened the floodgates in the ninth minute, banging home an awkward ball from close range by the right-hand post with the Jamaican defence split hopelessly open.

Octavio Mora made it two in the 14th minute, combining neatly with Salvador on the edge of the goal area to slide the ball in from an acute angle.

Hector Wright pulled one back for Jamaica during a counter-attack in the 17th minute, powering through the Mexican defence to blast past keeper Jorge Campos from the edge of the penalty area.

But Salvador struck back twice within 20 minutes, heading in from close range in the 18th and snuffing a poor clearance by Bar-

lington Gaynor in the 35th to complete his hat-trick.

He could have had four but telegraphed a weak, mis-hit penalty kick to the Jamaican keeper's left in the 43rd minute that Warren Barret had little difficulty saving.

Luis Roberto Alves, who bagged a record seven goals in the 9-0 demolition of Martinique, showed Salvador how it is done with a well-placed penalty kick in the 50th minute that made it 5-1.

Six minutes later Ignacio Ambriz connected with a headed cross from the far post by Salvador to complete the rout.

Mexico, in festive mood, then brought on substitute goalkeeper Alejandro Garcia to allow eccentric number one keeper Campos to play as a forward for the rest of the match.

Campos kept the crowd amused with a series of runs up the right wing, and even hit the post with 10 minutes to go, but was not able to do any more damage to a ragged visiting side.

Mexico now face the United States in Sunday's final in the Azteca, while Costa Rica and Jamaica will play for third and fourth place.

## Boardman smashes world cycling hour record

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — Britain's Chris Boardman smashed the world cycling hour record here Friday — then announced his next target could be to turn professional.

Boardman became the first man to go through the 5-km barrier, beating the record set only last week by Scotland's Graeme Obree in Norway.

The Barcelona Olympic pursuit gold medalist completed 52.27062 km in the 60 minutes to beat Obree's 51.596 km.

Boardman said afterwards: "I am really happy, it is indescribable."

"The goal was to reach 53km but that wasn't possible because of the humidity, made worse by the stadium lights, and the air pressure."

Asked what he planned to do next, Boardman said he would compete in the World Championships in Norway in August, adding: "Then perhaps I will turn professional next year and try and win some prologues — but I realise the Tour de France is much bigger than anything I have done before."

"I will leave the world hour record now but if somebody beats it, I will try and get it back."

Boardman said he had been keen to attempt the hour record before current Tour De France leader Miguel Indurain, because he is convinced the Spaniard could post a new mark beyond anybody else's reach.

"If a racer like Indurain does it I think he will smash all my marker times."

He added: "We expected Obree to break the record. I was very surprised he didn't do it the first time."

"But I couldn't believe that he got up and did it the next day but I didn't let that worry me too much."

The 24-year-old did not get the ideal start on his 7kg bike — 2kg lighter than the Olympic version — and was initially down a second on the schedule Obree set last week.

But by the 10km mark he had found his rhythm and had a two second advantage which he had stretched to nearly 15 seconds 10 km later.

At the 40km stage, with trainer Peter Keen keeping him perfectly informed of his progress, he had a comfortable 33 seconds in hand and there was little doubt that the record was doomed — the only question was if he could force himself through the 52km barrier.

The efforts of Obree and Boardman have now extended the hour record by 1.119 km from the mark that Francesco Moser set, at altitude, in 1984.

One of the first react to the new mark was former five-times winner of the Tour de France Bernard Hinault.

The Frenchman said: "I'm surprised by the distance he beat the old record. Nearly 700 metres — that's enormous."

"He achieved that because he is a top-class rider who prepared himself scientifically."

"This record can be compared to those of Moreckx and Moser. Today I can only see Indurain being able to take it higher. Before, the target was 50km, now it's 55."

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSH  
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠Q96 ♠A74 ♣KQJ10983 ♠Void  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ 2 ♠

What action do you take?  
A.—There are a number of things you want to do—show your club void, your spade support and the source of your tricks in diamonds. A cue-bid now could result in enemy pre-emptive action, leaving you badly placed. A forcing response of two diamonds now is the more prudent course—you can get aggressive later.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K64 ♠Q976 ♠Q6 ♠AQ84  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Dbl ?

What action do you take?  
A.—You have reasonable support for partner's suit, but a dead minimum opening bid. There's one action that describes this hand perfectly—pass. We frown upon anything else.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q976 ♠K64 ♠Q6 ♠AQ84  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Dbl ?

What action do you take?  
A.—Almost an identical hand to the second problem, except that the major suits have been reversed. Here your four-card fit for partner's suit improves your hand enormously. Even the Law of Total Tricks strongly dictates that you should raise to two spades.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠5 ♠A7653 ♠QJ932 ♠72  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
2 ♣ 2 ♣ Dbl ?  
(\*—weak)

What action do you take?  
A.—Your opponents certainly make game, perhaps even slam, so it's simply a matter of whether you should interfere with their auction and, if so, at what level. Our choice would be to act aggressively, and we feel five hearts makes life most difficult for the enemy.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠87 ♠AJ94 ♠A109643 ♠8  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump and East passes. What do you bid now?

A.—The problem with a jump to three diamonds is that partner might rebid three no trump with a four-card heart suit—a bid of any suit in this sequence would be a cue-bid confirming diamond support and a maximum. The way to probe for a suit contract is to start with two clubs, to check on the possibility of a 4-4 heart fit, and then proceed with three diamonds, which would be forcing.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A873 ♠K ♠10765 ♠J854  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Dbl ?

What action do you take?  
A.—Had there been no takeout double, you would, of course, have responded to partner's opening bid with one spade. However, the double has told you that East's suit, and you don't want to jockey the opponents out of spades. To up the ante a little, we suggest you respond one no trump, although we won't quibble mightily with a pass.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

Active salespeople wanted in a cargo sales and services company. Good command of the English language is required.  
If interested please send C.V. to P.O.Box 12, Amman-Jordan

## Job Opportunity

Aim Advertising seeks to employ a secretary with the following qualifications:

- Excellent command of English & Arabic.
- Ability to operate on Apple computers.
- Capable of establishing filing systems and organizing office daily operations.
- Presentable, strong personality and willing to work hard.

Interested candidates, please present yourself with a resume and a recent photo at:

Aim Advertising  
Swefieh - Hajarat Bldg. - 1st floor,  
next to Ad Dar Al Lubnania  
Tel: 825557

## FOR RENT

Deluxe, apartment, 230m<sup>2</sup>. Location: Al Jbelha, opposite Highway Patrol Police Station. Consists of master bedroom & 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms one dining room, 2 wide salons, furnished kitchen, 2 verandas, with separate central heating.

Please call 645461 and 841596

## JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

### INVITATION TO TENDER

NO. 24F/93

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 24F/93 for the supply of:

MAINTENANCE VEHICLE FOR AL ABIAD MINE

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Sunday 22.8.1993, application for document should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 10 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting tenders is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday Aug. 31, 1993.

Thabet Al Taher  
Managing Director

## TO LET FURNISHED FLAT TO LET

One bedroom, dining room, sitting room, central heating, separate entrance.  
Part of a villa in a doctors' housing society.  
West of Amman Tel.: 665659-642404

## Furnished Apartment For Rent

On Al Madinah Al Munawarah Street.  
Umm Uthaina, consisting of 3 bedrooms.  
Please call tel. 827031 or 816108

## FURNISHED SEMI-VILLA FOR RENT

Three bedrooms, salon, dining room, central heating, garage and garden.  
Location: Swefieh.

Tel. 819367

## REQUIRED FOR EMPLOYMENT

AN ARCHITECT OR DECOR ENGINEER AND A SECRETARY  
An architect or a decor engineer, with at least two-year experience in carrying out finishing and decor work; is required for employment with Nabil Al Naber Establishment. Also required for employment is a secretary for full time job.

Should be fluent in Arabic and English and able to use computer.  
Call tel. 610902

## FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished apartment, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, modern kitchen, L-shaped salon, colour T.V., telephone, central heating, intercom.

Location: Jabal Amman, in quiet & safe residential area, 3rd Circle Near Khaldi Hospital, no water problem. Also 2 bedrooms apartment available in Abdoun aipa.

Please call tel.: 641345 from 8-10 a.m. - 4-8 p.m.

TODAY	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
	CONCORD <b>THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.	PLAZA <b>STALLONE — IN Dolby Stereo CLIFFHANGER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30	PHILADELPHIA <b>Al Pacino — in SCENT OF A WOMAN</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled: <b>The Assassination of Hamdallah</b> by artist Saeed Bitar Shows on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m. Please book seats in advance	AHLAN NABIL AND HISHAM THEATRE The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlam Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.



# Mogadishu remains tense amid efforts to end U.N.-Italian row

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — A mine blast wrecked a Pakistani tank here Friday as U.S. peacekeepers swept a south Mogadishu neighbourhood for arms, a United Nations spokesman said.

There were no casualties when the tank ran over a landmine near a United States army base in south Mogadishu, Major Leann Swieczkowski told reporters.

It was the first day without U.N. casualties since Monday. But the Somali capital was still tense and few believe that escalating attacks on the U.N. by militiamen of warlord Mohamed Farah Aidede are over.

Four Americans, two Belgians and two Zimbabweans have been wounded in sniper attacks this week.

U.N. special representative Jonathan Howe said a dispute with Rome over the U.N. role in Somalia had "not been resolved" as U.N. Ambassador Robert Gosselin held talks here with Maurizio Moreno, a special envoy of the Italian foreign ministry.

Brigadier-General Bruno Loi, the controversial commander of Italy's 2,600 troops here, also attended the meeting.

Italy has rejected the U.N.'s demand that Gen. Loi be recalled, and has called for a halt to

U.S.-led military strikes against Gen. Aidede, wanted for the June 5 killings of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers.

Mr. Howe said he had also met Italian officials who are to report back to Rome.

Mr. Howe told AFP that Italy would send representatives to New York for further talks with U.N. officials. But he stressed that despite the policy dispute Italian troops were manning checkpoints and patrolling Mogadishu.

Italy, warning that the U.N. was getting embroiled in "urban guerrilla warfare," has refused to let its troops take part in further strikes against Gen. Aidede, whose militiamen are stepping up attacks on U.N. forces.

Italians were shocked by the July 2 killings of three of their soldiers in Mogadishu. Thirty-six U.N. peacekeepers have been killed since June and about 120 wounded.

U.N. forces in Somalia are intervening for the first time under Chapter 7 of the world body's charter, which authorises offensive "peacekeeping" operations.

But the military intervention has come under mounting criticism from aid workers and some U.N. civilian officials for losing sight of its humanitarian goals as

an unknown number of Somali civilians have been killed.

U.N. sources said Friday three Somali women recently complained that peacekeepers beat and raped them in their home.

A medical report confirmed that they had been beaten, though it did not confirm the rape allegation.

The sources said the soldiers involved were not North Americans or Europeans, but from "one of the smaller countries" involved in the peacekeeping operation.

But an investigation was dropped because their national commander refused to allow them to be interrogated, the sources said.

The British charity Oxfam has also complained that its Somali driver and guards had been beaten.

The upsurge of violence since July 5 has disrupted relief and rehabilitation aimed at restoring order in Somalia, without a government since 1991 and devastated by bitter factional fighting and a famine that killed an estimated 350,000 people.

An enraged mob beat three foreign journalists to death and a fourth was fatally shot after U.S. helicopter gunships attacked an Aidede building on July 12, killing 54 Somalis according to the International Committee of the

Red Cross.

Mr. Howe has rejected Italy's call for dialogue with Gen. Aidede and vowed to arrest the warlord, holed up in south Mogadishu.

"All the nations involved knew when they signed up for Chapter 7 there could be risks and casualties," said Mr. Howe, a retired U.S. admiral.

Meanwhile the 1,200-strong U.S. Quick Reaction Force swept the Medina neighbourhood of south Mogadishu for arms, searching houses for arms and setting up checkpoints.

Aid agencies complain they are not advised of U.N. military operations in Mogadishu that could endanger workers.

"We are not asking for military secrets, but we want to know roughly the places and times to avoid," said Steve Rifkin of the British charity Save the Children.

In Geneva, meanwhile, the top U.N. aid official defended the military operations as necessary to bring the peace needed by aid workers to do their jobs.

Jan Eliasson, U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, pointed out that it was military intervention that ended Somalia's clan war and allowed humanitarian groups to successfully combat a devastating famine.

## China claims Spratlys, but open to peaceful solution

JAKARTA (Agencies) — China said Friday that the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea are its territory, but that it is willing to settle peacefully with other claimants, news reports said.

China has no intention of strengthening military power on the island chain, said Qiao Shi, chairman of the Chinese standing committee of the People's Congress. He was speaking in interviews with the vernacular newspaper Kompas and the English-language daily Jakarta Post.

"In the history of sovereignty over the Spratlys, there were no claims earlier than other countries," he was quoted by Kompas as saying. "Just in recent time, some countries have different views over sovereignty in the region."

Mr. Qiao is on an official visit to Indonesia on the first leg of his tour to all the member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), except for Brunei. He will proceed then to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Besides China, the Spratlys, believed to be rich in oil and other mineral resources, are also claimed all or in part by Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Concern that the Spratlys could become a regional flashpoint grew after China passed a law in February last year claiming all of the islands and reserving the right to defend the chain with force.

Other claimants charge that Beijing had breached an earlier agreement among them renouncing the use of force in settling the disputes.

"We do not have any plan to expand our military strength. All that is only for self-defence," the Jakarta Post quoted Mr. Qiao as saying. "China needs stability and wants to see the region stable

in order to develop its economy."

As a member of ASEAN, Indonesia has been initiating efforts to build mutual trust and anticipate problems by bringing the rival claimants together in annual conferences since 1990.

The fourth conference on the chain is scheduled for Aug. 23-26 in Surabaya, East Java. A working group meeting early this month in Jakarta has agreed to cooperate on research on resources ranging from oil to the islands' potential as a tourist spot.

In recent years, senior officials from the ASEAN countries have expressed renewed concern over China's modernisation of its military.

The officials are worried that Beijing could become more aggressive in pushing its territorial claims in the South China Sea where China fought a brief but bloody naval engagement with Vietnam in 1988.

New reports had described China as building a military base near the islands and buying Russian jets and transport planes but China this week denied building up forces.

ASEAN ministers Friday invited non-ASEAN countries to accede to its 1976 friendship treaty as the basis for a new security arrangement in the Asia-Pacific.

"There was no immediate reaction by ASEAN ministers to the Chinese comments but they are likely to be welcomed."

"What is important is, we would want some real assurance from China that it still maintains the policy of not seeking hegemony, it still maintains the policy of wanting to see this area as an area of peace and stability," Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters Friday.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rafsanjani criticises U.S. over Bosnia

TEHRAN (AFP) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Friday criticised the United States for opposing the deployment of Iranian troops as peacekeeping forces in Bosnia and urged Washington to be more understanding of Muslims. Speaking at Friday prayers, Mr. Rafsanjani said the United States is "afraid of our influence in the Balkans, but never questions its own search for influence around the world." Washington's "initial pretext for not intervening in Bosnia was that there were no ground troops that could be deployed" in the war-torn country, he said. "But when he volunteered, we were immediately rebuffed." Tehran proposed earlier this month to put 10,000 men at the disposal of the United Nations as part of an offer made by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. But the U.S. State Department said it was opposed to the deployment of Iranians in Bosnia.

### Israelis, Palestinians to attend Cyprus camp

NICOSIA (R) — Israelis and Palestinians will join European and Arab youths at a peace camp in Cyprus aimed at promoting mutual understanding, organisers said Friday. Camp coordinator Peter Treichel told reporters some 200 young people will attend the camp in the Troodos mountains from July 26 to Aug. 3. The camp is organised by the Association for Peace in the Middle East initiative, founded by the International Falcon Movement/Socialist Educators International (IFM/SEI). Mr. Treichel, of the Socialist Youth Movement of Germany, said there will be three delegations of equal size: Israeli (Jews and Arabs), Palestinian (from the occupied territories and the diaspora) and IFM/SEI with young people from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, France and Egypt. It is the fourth camp of its kind since the initiative was launched in Sweden in 1990, and the first to be held in Cyprus.

### French customs seize 406 kilos cocaine

PERPIGNAN, France (AFP) — French customs officials seized 406 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of \$45 million from an Italian lorry at a toll station on a motorway here, police said Friday. Investigators were working on the theory that a trafficking network operating out of Colombia via Spain was transiting the drugs through France to Italy. Police said the mafia was probably involved. The Italian driver of the lorry was arrested for trafficking and remanded in custody here. Customs officers decided to inspect the lorry, which had Milan license plates and was allegedly travelling empty, because of anomalies in the paperwork.

### Indian police seize alleged Pakistani spy

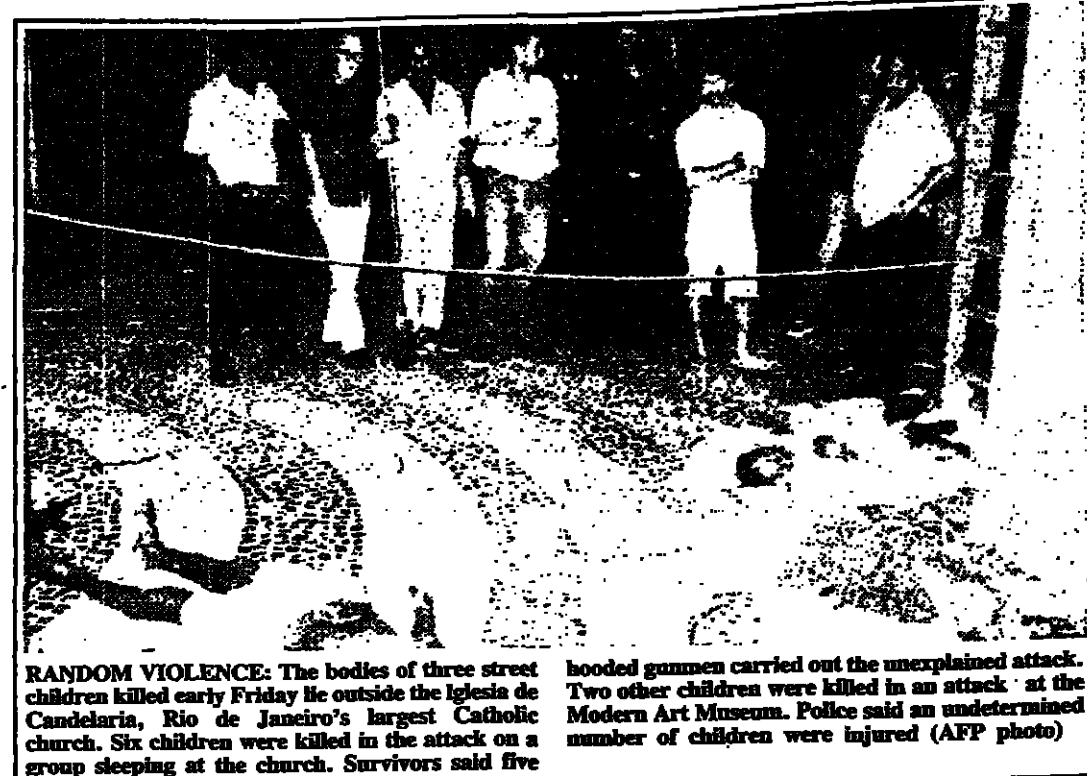
NEW DELHI (R) — India accused a Pakistani of spying Friday and was in turn charged with fabricating the incident to malign its old enemy. Indian foreign ministry spokesman Shiv Mukherjee said Mohammad Riaz was arrested in New Delhi's main diplomatic district Friday morning. "He was apprehended in the act of receiving sensitive documents from a local contact," Mr. Mukherjee told Reuters, adding that the Pakistani embassy had been told to collect Mr. Riaz from police custody. Mr. Mukherjee told reporters later that the documents related to the movement and deployment of the Indian army and air force. "United News of India reported. The Pakistanis issued a statement alleging that Mr. Riaz, an embassy driver, had been jumped on by 10 Indian security men at a petrol station, beaten, then taken to a nearby park, tied up and beaten again. "A charade was enacted in which the official was forcibly made to receive so-called documents from an unknown Indian person," the statement said. It said Mr. Riaz was then taken to a nearby police station, where he "was forced to sign a statement."

### General strike shuts down Calcutta

CALCUTTA (AP) — Calcutta was shut down on Friday by a general strike and thousands of people who sat on railroad tracks and roads to protest the killing of 12 demonstrators by police. The daylong strike was called by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party to demand the resignation of the communist government in West Bengal state, whose capital is Calcutta. Armed police officers took positions at all major intersections. On Wednesday, police killed 12 people when they opened fire on Congress Party demonstrators who accused the West Bengal chief minister, Jyoti Basu, of terrorising political opponents. "People will not forget what happened in Calcutta. The drastic killings are a black spot for the government. Jyoti Basu should resign," Sonam Mitra, president of the state congress party, said in a statement. West Bengal is the only communist-ruled state in India, where Mr. Basu's Communist Party of India (Marxist) has held power for the last 15 years.

### Liberian peace talks resume

COTONOU (AFP) — Talks aimed at completing a Liberian peace agreement resumed here Friday amid hopes for a rapid settlement, though the main rebel leader said he would not attend because he feared Nigerian peacekeepers were out to "kill" him. Sources close to the delegations said an agreement should be officially signed Saturday, though Charles Taylor, head of the National Patriotic Front (NPF), said Friday he would not come to Cotonou, the capital of Benin, for "security reasons." The talks, held on the sidelines of a summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), are aimed at deciding on the formation and working of a transitional government, parliament and judiciary before elections are held within seven months of a planned July 31 ceasefire as called for under an agreement reached by the warring factions last weekend in Geneva.



**RANDOM VIOLENCE:** The bodies of three street children killed early Friday lie outside the Igreja de Candelaria, Rio de Janeiro's largest Catholic church. Six children were killed in the attack on a group sleeping at the church. Survivors said five hooded gunmen carried out the unexplained attack. Two other children were killed in an attack at the Modern Art Museum. Police said an undetermined number of children were injured (AFP photo)

## Yeltsin aide to be probed

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Russian parliament agreed Friday to allow a criminal investigation against one of President Boris Yeltsin's top political allies on suspicion of embezzling state funds.

Deputies voted overwhelmingly to give the green light for the probe into alleged abuses by First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko.

Mr. Shumeiko denied the allegation and said he had nothing to fear from an official corruption probe.

"These accusations that I'm one of the biggest fraudsters in the country have been going on a long time," Mr. Shumeiko, appearing genial and relaxed, said in an interview with journalists including Reuters Television.

"My conscience is clear and I know I have done nothing to take even a single ruble from Russia, and therefore I feel completely calm," he added. "This is simply

a show, a spectacle in order to stir up public opinion once again."

Prosecutor-General Valentin Stepankov said Mr. Shumeiko, while serving as deputy chairman of parliament in 1989, was responsible for transferring \$14.5 million to a Swiss-based company to buy baby food for Russia.

He said the contract was never fulfilled and the company used the money for its own purposes.

Mr. Shumeiko said the contract was actually not to import large quantities of baby food, but to launch factory production of it in Moscow. He said this was going ahead and 60 per cent of the equipment required had been delivered and assembled.

"This contract is working," he said.

Mr. Shumeiko, one of several top presidential aides whom the conservative opposition accuses of corruption, said its tactics were to damage Mr. Yeltsin by discrediting his government.

"They want to show that I can't work in the president's entourage, that I'm a thief, and so on," he said. "Their chosen tactic is to 'take out' certain figures close to the president."

Mr. Yeltsin, meanwhile, fired the deputy interior minister responsible for cracking down on organised crime.

Presidential officials refused to give a reason for General Andrei Dumayev's dismissal, but Interior Minister Viktor Yerin had strongly criticised the anti-mafia department in a press conference on Tuesday.

Mr. Yerin also pointed out that police had been waiting for several months for parliament to pass a law outlawing mafia-type organisations.

The strength of organised crime in the Russian capital has been highlighted by gangster shootings in the city which have killed more than 50 people in the past three months.

## Jordan dismisses Israeli report as untrue

By Ayman A. Safadi  
Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — Today categorically dismissed a newspaper report that last week had reported a wanted Palestinian to Israeli authorities.

The Israeli daily Ha'aretz Friday quoted the family of Mohammad Al Bilbeisi as claiming that Mr. Bilbeisi was arrested by Jordanian authorities upon return from Saudi Arabia on July 14 and was later driven to a bridge over the Jordan River and handed over to Israel.

"It is absolutely untrue. It didn't happen," Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar told the Jordan Times Friday. "It is a fabricated story."

In the report, which was carried by Reuters news agency, the Israeli paper said Mr. Bilbeisi fled the occupied West Bank in 1987 after the Israeli authorities tried to arrest him in connection with bombings in Tel Aviv.

The paper said the 30-year-old man from the West Bank village of Safit had been forced by Jordanian authorities to leave the country. It said he worked on Saudi Arabia and visited Jordan periodically until his alleged arrest by Jordanian authorities on July 14 when he wanted to reside in the country.

The paper said the family of Mr. Bilbeisi sought the help of an Israeli human rights organisation to determine his whereabouts. It quoted an official of the organisation as saying that Israeli authorities have admitted having Mr. Bilbeisi but did not reveal where he is being held. The human rights group Friday asked the Israeli high court to order authorities to disclose his location.

Reuters said Israeli army officials declined comment on the report that Mr. Bilbeisi was handed over to them by Jordanian authorities.

## Correction

Due to a proofreading error, a story entitled "Journalists with political publications lock horns with press association," incorrectly reported that the legal advisor of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) had advised the JPA president that political parties' publications are considered news organisations whose members are entitled to join the association. The sentence should have read: "Political parties... should not be recognised as news organisations whose members are entitled to join the association." The Jordan Times regrets the error.

## Fateh endorses confederation

(Continued from page 1)

withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula.

"The question is why Israel carried out Eisenhower's order then and why it is not implementing the principle of land

for peace included in the U.S. initiative which laid the ground for the (1991) Madrid conference," Al Baath said.

The Madrid conference was the starting point of the peace talks. The newspaper was commenting on the upcoming visit to the Middle East by Mr. Christopher.

## U.N. starts long-term Iraq watch

(Continued from page 1)

on oil sales and lifting the oil embargo with Iraq's latest compromise.

Baghdad last month barred the installation of the monitoring devices at the two sites. Its defiance led to a standoff with the Security Council, which threatened Baghdad with "serious consequences" if it did not relent.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sabah said Thursday he hoped Iraq's approval of the monitoring plan would help ease crippling economic sanctions imposed three years ago.

Iraq has been barred from selling oil or importing goods, except for food and medicine, under a worldwide embargo imposed after its Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait.

But Mr. Ekeus said he could not recommend that sanctions be eased.

"The problem in Iraq is that you don't really trust them," he said in an interview with CBS News television broadcast Friday.

"You are suspicious and you have reason to be suspicious," Mr. Ekeus added that he was not satisfied that Iraq had been stripped of its capacity to produce long-range missiles, despite the compromise over the monitoring of the test sites.

Another deadlock Mr. Zifferero said he will try to resolve is that over the sources that supplied Iraq with nuclear material. Iraq has refused to disclose procurement data, but the IAEA says the information is essential to decide what the chances of reviving the nuclear programme are.

At a press conference after his private meeting with the council, Mr. Ekeus Thursday outlined the commission's plans for the next

month. A team will go to Iraq to install the cameras the week of July 26 and U.N. weapons experts will be in the country to monitor any tests, he said. In addition, the commission will continue its high-altitude reconnaissance flights and will send a team in August to investigate "vigorously" the possibility of any hidden nuclear weapons programmes, he said.

Iraq gave him a list of proposals that may or may not be Baghdad's conditions for complying with all the council's demands on Iraqi chemical, biological, nuclear, and ballistic weapons, Mr. Ekeus said.

Mr. Ekeus called Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 715 "politically very important," and he stressed that the list of proposals — which includes lifting the oil embargo before Iraq agrees to the monitoring — was not presented as a package but rather as a "list of items."

"Iraq has not committed itself to see it as a package," he said. "If Iraq had done that... it would have been completely useless."

He cited two factors which had helped defuse a serious confrontation between the Security Council and Iraq over the installation of the cameras: the "strong and united Security Council position" threatening serious consequences if Iraq did not comply with the monitoring, and the difficult economic situation in Iraq.

"Iraq has a right to import food and medicine — there is no (U.N.) prohibition, but the economic situation is such that it cannot pay for these, which creates considerable hardship. Therefore Iraq may see these talks as a new political effort to relieve the plight of the Iraqi people," he said.

## Israel says Syria in proxy war

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon has repeatedly called at the talks for Israel to withdraw from the "security zone," saying it considers the Israeli presence an occupation.

Although the government has disbanded militias that fought in the 1975-90 civil war, it has not

moved against factions involved in guerrilla warfare against Israel.

Hizbollah opposes any talks with the Jewish state and has called for its overthrow. It has been blamed for stepping up attacks on Israeli forces each time the peace negotiators meet.

"Resistance is the only language Israel understands," Sheikh Qassem said.

## Two more arrested

(Continued from page 1)

was amended in 1991 to allow rewards of up to \$2 million, limit the department's authority to acts that take place primarily abroad. Congress also created a separate rewards programme to be

administered by the Justice Department in cases of domestic terrorism, but that programmes has not been adequately funded, the officials told the Times.

Mr. Yousef was last seen on the morning of Feb. 26.

## COLUMN

### Thatcher receives Russian honorary doctorate

MOSCOW (R) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher received an Honorary doctorate in chemistry from a leading Russian university. The award ceremony at Mendeleyev University, a leading institute for chemical research, was also attended by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa. Highlights were broadcast on Commonwealth Television's main evening news programme, while Mrs. Thatcher's speech after the ceremony was reported in full in the Russian daily Izvestiya. Mrs. Thatcher, who was replaced as premier by John Major in a 1990 Conservative Party coup, is now a member of parliament's unelected House of Lords. Her tough policies earned her the nickname "the iron lady" and won her popularity and admiration in Russia.

### Emperor, empress to visit quake hit Japanese island

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will visit the northern island of Okushiri which was hit by a devastating earthquake earlier this month, the Imperial Household Agency said Friday. The imperial couple will fly Tuesday morning to Hakodate Airport in southern Hokkaido, from where they will fly to Okushiri on a Self-Defence Forces helicopter, the agency said. They will return to Tokyo Tuesday evening. Okushiri, a small island with a population of 4,700 off Hokkaido Island, was the worst hit area in the July 12 earthquake which measured 7.8 on the Richter Scale. The quake was followed by huge tidal waves that hit southwestern Hokkaido and other parts of northern Japan. So far, 193 people have been confirmed dead and 48 others are still missing, feared dead. On Okushiri alone, 161 have been confirmed dead and 44 remain missing.

### Asians see too much violence on TV

HONG KONG (AFP) — The level of violence on television is a growing concern in Asia, but young people seem inured, according to a survey released Friday. A poll by the Survey Research Group of nine Asian countries found that on top of concerns about violence, people in South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines also had "strong feelings" about the breakdown of law and order. Some 8,500 people were polled nationwide, with the highest level of concern about violence on television coming from the Philippines, where more than half of those questioned said there was too much violence. This was followed by Japan, where 42 per cent considered the levels of violence too high, while more than a third of the people in Hong Kong and South Korea felt the same, the poll said. The poll found that throughout the region concern was greater among women than men and increased with age and family responsibilities. Single males of lower income in the 20-to-28 age group claimed there was too little violence on television.

### U.S. Senate reverses flag vote

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate reversed itself and refused to approve the insignia of a charitable group that contains the Confederate flag, a symbol for many of the old days of slavery in America. The 75-25 vote to kill an amendment renewing the design patent for the emblem of the United Daughters of the Confederacy came after Illinois Democrat Carol Mosley-Braun, the Senate's only black member, voiced outrage at an earlier vote that had gone the other way. "I have to tell you this vote is about race," she said in protest to the Senate. "It is about symbols, the racial past, and the single most painful episode in American history. The issue is whether or not Americans such as myself... will have to suffer the indignity of being reminded time and time again that at one point in this country's history we were human chattel." The debate erupted when Senator Jesse Helms, a North Carolina Republican, proposed renewing the 1898 design patent in an amendment to a bill setting up President Bill Clinton's national service system. The amendment apparently seemed innocuous to many, and the Senate rejected Mr. Mosley-Braun's motion to kill it.

## Letter from Geneva

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

The writer, who is a member of the Jordan Times editorial staff, is a member of the U.N. Human Rights Committee.

MANY ISLAMIC states are increasing hiding behind Sharia as an excuse to escape international scrutiny. Egypt circulated Friday a note in connection with the consideration of its periodic report on the extent of its adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) informing the human rights committee members that when it had ratified the ICCPR in 1982, it had done so with clear understanding that such ratification is conditional on the extent of the compatibility between Sharia and the covenant.

This tendency to resort to good old religion as an excuse for the non-implementation of the provisions of the various international human rights instruments has been gaining currency of late and found clear expression during the Vienna world conference on human rights. The submission of most of the developing countries at the Vienna meeting rested squarely on the need to give due effect to the peculiar cultural and religious circumstances of each and every state whenever such countries are marked on their human rights record. Fortunately, such a line of counter-attack did not win wide favour among the participants at the Vienna gathering albeit some milder reference was made to the richness of the various civilisations and religions should not be deployed as a smoke-screen for human rights violations.

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 was being codified into legally-binding treaties, the entire United Nations membership took part in the process and made their voices and concerns loud and clear. The Islamic countries also took part in that process of codification. In retrospect, the Islamic nations cannot now present justifications for their non-compliance with the ICCPR and other human rights conventions on grounds that could have been invoked some 20 years ago. Granted the United Nations membership was not so universal as it is now. There were less than half of present 183 member states to reflect the universal stance. This fact alone is the strongest argument in support of the thesis that existing human rights norms are not truly universal since less than half of the world took part in their drafting.

States can no longer resort to the thesis that their peculiar religious situation can still be used as an excuse not to live up to their treaty obligations under the ICCPR and other international conventions.